

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**April 11, 2025
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 770
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION
ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HANNAH
KIHALANI SPRINGER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2028**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) strongly supports the Governor's appointment of Ms. Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

The Commission is required under Section 174C-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to select commissioners through an open, competitive process. A nominating committee—composed of two members selected by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one by the Speaker of the House—reviews the applications of candidates, conducts interviews, and submits to the Governor the names of at least three individuals for consideration for each open seat on the Commission.

By law, each nominee must have “substantial experience in the area of water resource management.” Additionally, the State Water Code requires that at least one commissioner—commonly referred to as the loa—possess “substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101 [of the State Water Code].” Governor Josh Green, M.D., has selected Ms. Hannah Kihalani Springer to fill this critical loa seat on the Commission.

Ms. Springer is highly qualified for this appointment, bringing to the Commission an extraordinary record of public service, community advocacy, and steadfast dedication to environmental and cultural stewardship. A kama'āina of Ka'ūpūlehu in North Kona, Ms. Springer has deep ancestral and generational ties to the lands and waters of Hawai'i Island. She has long served as a respected voice in

policy discussions and community-based efforts focused on protecting Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources.

Her distinguished record of service includes appointments to the Hawai‘i County Planning Commission, the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission, and the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. In addition, she has provided thoughtful leadership through her involvement with nonprofit organizations such as the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo (KUA), and the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. Across these roles, Ms. Springer has exemplified a deep commitment to sustainability, collaboration, and the integration of Hawaiian values and practices into resource management decision-making.

Ms. Springer’s leadership has helped to build bridges between government, community, and science. Her lifelong commitment to ‘āina stewardship, cultural wisdom, and public service makes her an invaluable addition to the Commission. As a loea, she will bring a deep understanding of traditional Hawaiian water management practices, culture, and mo‘olelo, that are essential to fulfilling the State Water Code’s mandates and honoring its constitutional obligations to Native Hawaiian rights and other public trust responsibilities.

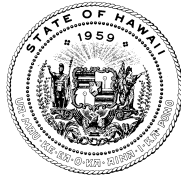
As the loea Water Commissioner, she will ensure that indigenous knowledge systems are not only represented but meaningfully engaged in shaping water policies. Ms. Springer’s ability to elevate and articulate the ‘ike of place-based communities—particularly those whose relationships to water resources are defined by cultural, spiritual, and subsistence practices—will significantly strengthen the Commission’s work.

We look forward to her leadership as a cultural expert whose life and work exemplify a profound commitment to kuleana. Her insight and guidance will provide a vital lens through which to understand and respond to the complex and interdependent challenges facing Hawai‘i’s water resources today.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination and appointment of Ms. Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY of KALI WATSON, CHAIRPERSON,
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 229

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (GM) 770, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HANNAH SPRINGER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-
2028**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of GM 770, the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). Hannah Kihalani Springer has been nominated to fill the "loea" seat, the member of CWRM who "shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101." (HRS §174C-7(b)).

DHHL notes that the loea seat was not an original inclusion in our state Water Code, but resulted from an amendment that itself was responding to repeated decisions by CWRM where staff and Commissioners did not affirmatively protect Native Hawaiian water rights, including the native Hawaiian water rights protected under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. As DHHL continues its efforts to build homesteads on its lands where competition for water is significant, the importance of this seat and CWRM's duties to DHHL cannot be understated.

Hannah Springer's extensive experience demonstrates that she more than meets the requirements to serve in the loea seat. A kanaka maoli descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu, Hawai'i Island, she has been a well-known leader of many 'āina and wai related practices. Notably she was a key member of the association Ka Pa'akai o Ka 'Āina, whose efforts directly led to the development of the Ka Pa'akai Test which now helps county and state agencies fulfill their duties under Article XII, section 7 of the Hawai'i Constitution.

We note that Ms. Springer also will bring to CWRM extensive experience working in public and private boards, including the Planning and the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commissions of Hawai'i County, the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. Combined with her qualifications as a loea, Springer will be an invaluable addition to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on

Water and Land

Friday, April 11, 2025

1:00 PM, Conference Room 229

IN SUPPORT of GM 770

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), Gubernatorial Nominee Hannah Kihalani Springer, for a term to expire 06/30/2028. **The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) strongly supports this Gubernatorial Nominee.**

Ms. Springer has spent her life supporting and protecting the unique ecosystem of the Pae'Aina of Hawaii. Her resume touches on her extensive experience in government policies, practices, and more importantly on her civic engagements where her love for her 'aina and her people, including the Public Trust is predominantly brought forward.

Aha Moku brings forth the voices of the generational and traditional native Hawaiians of the eight islands of the Pae'Aina, the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii Nei. One of the most important issues that affect all of Hawaii Nei is the Hawaii Water Plan which consists of five constituent parts: 1) Water Resource Protection Plan prepared by CWRM; 2) A Water Quality Plan prepared by the Dept. of Health; 3) A State Water Projects Plan prepared by the Engineering Division of DLNR; 4) an Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan prepared by the Dept. of Agriculture; and, 5) Water Use and Development Plans prepared by each separate county. Ms. Springer's extensive experience in working over the past decades on each of these critical components makes her one of the most sought-after nominees for CWRM.

However, Aha Moku recognizes more! Hannah Springer is incredibly humble and is the recipient of generational and traditional knowledge handed down by her Kupuna. This knowledge recognizes the importance of Wai (Water) and its impact on our natural resources - land, coastal areas, and ocean. It recognizes the kuleana that CWRM carries in upholding Hawaii State Constitutional laws that protect the indigenous peoples, the native Hawaiian traditional practices that depend on the protection of our water. At the same time, the Public Trust needs must also be protected. Hannah Springer is unusually qualified for these important tasks.

And, while she often downplays her participation in the Hawaii Supreme Court Law – the Kapa'akai O Ka'Aina Law, passed in 2000, Hannah Springer played a significant part as one of the original plaintiffs. This alone, strengthens her role as a Water Commissioner as she has a deeper understanding of Hawaii State Law and the Kapa'akai O Ka Aina Analysis.

Kapa'akai O Ka Aina Analysis

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhikewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

The Kapa'akai Analysis may be used in determining whether traditional and customary practices would be impacted by the activities of government agencies, present and in the future.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Kapa'akai Case

- Identification and scope of “valued cultural, historical, or natural resources” in petition or impacted area, including the extent to which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the petition area;
- The extent to which those resources, including traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, will be affected or impaired by the proposed actions;
- The feasible action, if any, to be taken to reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to sharing our mana'o with you. We strongly support Hannah Springers nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Respectfully yours,

Charles Young, Po'o, Moku O Keawe (Hawai'i), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-987-9052, youngc042@hawaii.rr.com

Kalei Luuwai, Po'o, Moku O Pi'ilani (Maui), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-870-9040, rluwai@gmail.com

Winnifred Basques, Po'o, Nana'i Kaula (Lana'i), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-215-1101, winnie@aloha.net

Manuel Kuloloio, Po'o, Moku O Kanaloa (Kaho'olawe), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-330-2896, manuel.kuloloio@baesystems.com

Walter Rawlins, Po'o, Moloka'i Pule O'o (Moloka'i), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-336-1012, walterrawlins45@gmail.com

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Po'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu)(Hawaii State Chair), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-286-7955, rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

Lewellyn (Billy) Kaohelauii, Po'o, Manokalanipo (Kaua'i), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-742-9575, terrihayes@gmail.com

Keith Robinson, Po'o, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau), Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee, 808-338-1856, kauaiwildlifereserve@gmail.com

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director, Hawaii State Aha Moku, 808-640-1214, leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov



Testimony in Support of GM770

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, **HANNAH SPRINGER**, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Senate Committee on Water and Land

April 11, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Room Number 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM770, which would confirm Hannah Kihalani Springer for appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management (the “Commssion”).

Under the State Water Code, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 174C, the Commission is comprised of five voting members who “have substantial experience in the area of water resource management.” HRS § 174C-7(b). Of these five “at least one member shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage[s]” of water such as gathering and kalo cultivation. *Id.* Ms. Spring is eminently qualified to fill this loa seat and OHA is pleased to endorse Ms. Springer taking up this kuleana on behalf of the Native Hawaiian community.

Ms. Springer’s professional and volunteer experience spans over four decades and reflects a deep dedication to cultural stewardship and co-management of resources. She has served on the Kahu Kū Mauna Council advising the Office of Maunakea Management, chaired the County of Hawai‘i’s Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission, and provided cultural expertise to organizations such as the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, Kūkio and Hualālai Resorts, and numerous environmental nonprofits. The Ka‘ūpulehu Marine Life Advisory Committee is a leading example of blending traditional ecological knowledge with the latest science in a collaborative co-management model and exemplifies the relevant government experience and community leadership that Ms. Springer will bring to the Commission.

Ms. Springer is also a cultural practitioner with generational knowledge of her home island. A plaintiff in the landmark case, *Ka Pa'akai O Ka'Aina v. Land Use Comm'n*, Ms. Springer testified concerning the importance of clean, fresh water for gathering salt along the North Kona coastline. 94 Haw. 31, 49, 7 P.3d 1068, 1086 (2000). In doing so, Ms. Springer helped to establish the foundational analytic framework used by government agencies to protect Native Hawaiian rights. Ms. Springer’s generational ‘ike is a critical

qualification for filling the loea seat. Additionally, her knowledge about a region of Hawai'i island that has variable rains and is fire-prone will be invaluable to the Commission's work as our State faces the increasing impacts of climate change.

Finally, OHA recognizes Ms. Springer's longstanding contributions to the Native Hawaiian community including her previous service as an OHA Trustee from 1996 to 2000. As the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians, OHA has long supported the inclusion of qualified Native Hawaiian voices in key decision-making bodies such as the Commission. Ms. Springer's deep understanding of 'āina-based resource management, her role as a trusted cultural advisor, and her history of community stewardship make her exceptionally qualified to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Commission as set forth in the Water Code.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. OHA urges the Committee to **PASS GM770**, and thereby **confirm Hannah Kihalani Springer** to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 9, 2025

Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki Esq.

LATE

MEMO TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Chair Lorraine R. Inouye and Vice Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante

FROM: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

SUBJECT: **STRONG SUPPORT - GM770 HANNAH SPRINGER**

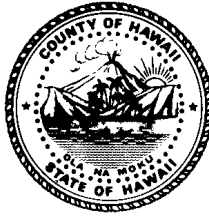
Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM770, Governor Green's nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management as the loea.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

At the CWRM meeting interviewing all candidates for the loea seat last February, I testified in strong support of both Aunty Hannah and Lori Buchanan, from Molokai. Aunty Lori would have been the first person from Molokai to serve on the Water Commission. I'm delighted to be able to support Aunty Hannah today, and one day hope to support someone from Molokai in the future.

Aunty Hannah centers community in decision-making and understands her kulana and kuleana as loea. With such a wealth of knowledge and experiences, I am certain she will provide the leadership, inclusiveness, and transparency the communities across the pae'aina deserve.

I respectfully urge the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination.



HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

April 8, 2025

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

RE: **Support for GM770, Confirmation of Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee**
Hearing: **Friday, April 11, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

As Chair of the Hawai'i County Council, and as a lifelong resident of Hawai'i Island, I write to express my **strong support** for the nomination and confirmation of **Ms. Hannah Kihalani Springer** to the Commission on Water Resource Management as the designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

Ms. Springer is a respected leader, scholar, cultural practitioner, and aloha 'āina whose lifelong dedication to the protection and proper stewardship of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources is widely recognized throughout our island and beyond. Her knowledge of place, coupled with decades of community service, makes her uniquely qualified to serve in this critical role.

A lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, Ms. Springer carries with her generations of traditional ecological knowledge rooted in her ancestral lands—knowledge that is invaluable as we face the increasing impacts of climate change on our water systems and resources. She has served with distinction on numerous boards and advisory councils, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and played a foundational role in shaping the **Ka Pa'akai o ka 'Āina** framework, which continues to guide responsible development and the protection of Native Hawaiian rights.

Her deep commitment to equitable water management, cultural integrity, and future generations aligns directly with the mission of the Commission. I have no doubt that Ms. Springer will bring a thoughtful, experienced, and culturally grounded perspective to the table - one that uplifts communities, honors 'āina, and helps guide our state toward a more sustainable and just future.

I respectfully urge this Committee to confirm Governor Green's nomination of Ms. Hannah Kihalani Springer. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

HOLEKA GORO INABA, Ed.D.,
Council Chair, District 8, North Kona



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water & Land (WTL)
IN SUPPORT OF GM770
April 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Room 229 via Videoconference

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) over 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA enthusiastically supports GM770 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.

It has long been in the spirit of our work that the formal governance of our resources increasingly reflect the leadership and wisdom of our community and their interdependence with their places and these islands. We are also familiar with the long process it has taken to fill this seat, and as such, **we express our deep kāko'o (support) for the appointment of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management as the much-needed loea (expert)**, reserved for a member with substantial 'ike (knowledge or expertise) in traditional Native Hawaiian water resource management techniques and traditional Native Hawaiian riparian usage. A lineal descendant of the celebrated kaha lands of Kā'ūpulehu and Kūki'o on Hawai'i Island, Auntie Hannah, as so many affectionately call her, is an excellent choice for this role as a well-respected koa aloha 'āina momona (fearless warrior for aloha 'āina and abundance) in not only her own ahupua'a, but across all of Hawai'i.

Auntie Hannah played a significant role in the litigation that established the [Ka Pa'akai analysis](#), a legal framework operationalizing our constitutional protections for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights that all governmental actors have an affirmative duty to follow. She is also a well-known community and civic club leader and environmentalist, former Office of

Hawaiian Affairs trustee, member of our E Alu Pū Network Council, and valued member on the KUA Board since 2019. Further, Aunty Hannah is a founding and active member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee and their [“Try Wait”](#) initiative to bring back abundance and responsible community-based nearshore management in the Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūko'o ahupua'a. **Beyond all her accomplishments, Aunty Hannah continues to inspire and guide countless other koa aloha 'āina in Hawai'i with her incredible mo'olelo (storytelling) and oratorical skills, her aloha, grace, holu (resilience), and ha'aha'a (humbleness), all while maintaining that trademark twinkle in her eye.** We cannot emphasize enough our support for her in this next calling to protect our most precious resource, wai, for generations to come.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence and “that which feeds” us all, requires long-term investment through a shared vision of achieving 'āina momona (abundance) once again.** To get there requires dedicating more resources for mālama 'āina (caring for our environment), including through this well-deserved appointment of Aunty Hannah as the much-needed loea on our Commission on Water Resource Management. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki's keiki's keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. We strongly urge your Committee to recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Aunty Hannah's nomination.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

April 7, 2025

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 770
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER TO THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

April 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Earthjustice **strongly supports GM 770**, the consideration and confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management. This appointment brings closure to the year-long controversy between the governor and Native Hawaiian community members and supporters over the nomination process. Now that a qualified loea has been appointed through the lawful process, we support Ms. Springer's confirmation.

The commission has been without a lawfully appointed loea for nearly a year, and Springer's appointment presents an opportunity for the Senate to finally confirm a qualified and lawfully selected nominee for that role. Ms. Springer has now been vetted for this position twice, having gone through two rounds of interviews with two nominating committees, and each time being selected as a qualified and recommended nominee on the list given to the governor. Unlike the governor's prior appointment, Ms. Springer's appointment does not present concerns about the integrity of the nomination process or authority of the nominating committee.

Ms. Springer is indeed a respected loea in her community. With her experience, she is well equipped to serve in the role as a commissioner. She has served as a member on the Hawai'i County Planning Commission and Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission, and the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. She has also served leadership roles in for the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, Kua'āina 'Ulu 'Auamo, and the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. Ms. Springer's history demonstrates her commitment to 'āina stewardship and public service, and it is no wonder that communities across the pae 'āina support her appointment.

The loea commissioner position was created to ensure that traditional and customary rights of ahupua'a tenants and appurtenant water rights of kuleana and taro lands are respected and protected. Ms. Springer embodies what it means to be a loea. She has continuously embraced roles to protect traditional and customary rights of Native Hawaiians, and the loea appointment is just her next step in continuing that work.

For these reasons, Earthjustice strongly supports GM 770 and respectfully requests that the Senate vote to confirm Hannah Kihalani Springer as the loea for the water commission. Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify. Please don't hesitate to contact us at hbroyles@earthjustice.org or (808) 599-2436 if you have any questions.

/s/ Harley M. Broyles

ISAAC H. MORIWAKE

HARLEY M. BROYLES

EARTHJUSTICE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:40:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Louis	Testifying for La'iohua 2020, Villages of La'iohua	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water and Land
In Support of GM770: Nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on
Water Resource Management
Friday, April 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM
Conference Room 229**

April 9, 2025

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Malia Louis, and I am a resident of Kaniohale Village within The Villages of La'i'ōpua on Moku o Keawe. I serve as President of La'iohua 2020. I submit this testimony in **strong support** of GM770 and the confirmation of **Hannah Kihalani Springer** to serve as the Water Commission's designated *loea*, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

Aunty Hannah is a deeply respected cultural practitioner, community leader, and lifelong *aloha 'āina* whose wisdom and experience are invaluable. Her knowledge is rooted in both traditional and contemporary contexts, making her uniquely qualified to make thoughtful, informed, and balanced decisions about the future of our water resources—decisions that will impact not only my community and fellow DHHL beneficiaries but Hawai'i as a whole.

Her legacy of service is long and impactful. She has served as a trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, helped develop the **Ka Pa'akai analysis**—a landmark framework for balancing development with the protection of Native Hawaiian cultural practices—and continues to lead as a founding member of the **Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee**. For over four decades, Aunty Hannah has exemplified the work of a *kahuwai pono*—a responsible guardian of water. Just as importantly, Aunty Hannah is a **lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o**, steeped in the *'ike kūpuna* (ancestral knowledge) of how to thrive in our island's arid regions. Her deep connection to place and culture, especially in understanding the value and sacredness of *wai*, is critically needed as climate change continues to disrupt rainfall patterns and

as the Water Commission faces increasingly complex decisions about resource allocation and protection.

I respectfully and emphatically urge the Committee to **advise and consent** to Aunty Hannah's nomination as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Malia Louis

President, La'iopua 2020

MOKU O MANOKALANIPŌ
KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
PO Box 383 Hanapēpē, HI 96716

Date: April 9, 2025

To: Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Water and Land Members

From: Moku o Manokalanipō, Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Malia Nobrega-Olivera, President
malianob@gmail.com

Re: GM 770 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

We're writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 770 of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as

MOKU O MANOKALANIPŌ
KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

PO Box 383 Hanapēpē, HI 96716

important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Therefore, Moku o Manokalanipō respectfully urges the Committee to ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770

The Hawaiian Civic Club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and in 1968, the Hawaiian Civic Clubs on the island of Kaua'i organized Moku o Manokalanipō, the Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.



Hui Kahuwai

Our Mission is to perpetuate the legacy of our forebearers by adaptively and collaboratively learning about, protecting, tending, and restoring the biocultural resources and practices of Kekaha, North Kona, Hawai'i Island, focusing on Ka'ūpūlehu

Testimony of Hui Kahuwai
In Strong Support of GM770
Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management
Gubernatorial Nominee Hannah Kihalani Springer
Senate Committee on Water and Land
April 11, 2025

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Hui Kahuwai, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and pono management of water and nearshore resources in the ahupua'a of Ka'ūpūlehu and surrounding areas in North Kona. We strongly support the confirmation of **Hannah Kihalani Springer** to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Hannah is a highly respected and accomplished cultural practitioner with a long history of public and community service. Her cultural grounding as a lineal descendant of the famously arid ahupua'a of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūiki'o —coastal regions known as kekahawai'ole, “the waterless Kekaha”— provides her with a lived understanding of wai as both a scarcity and a sacred resource. This makes her a particularly compelling choice for the Commission, especially as it faces critical decisions regarding the sharing and protection of Hawai'i's increasingly limited freshwater resources.

In many ways, Hannah embodies the role of a kahu wai — a guardian of water. She holds wai as sacred, not merely a resource, but a relative to be protected. Her ability to honor ancestral relationships while navigating present-day responsibilities makes her an ideal commissioner at a time when Hawai'i's water systems face serious challenges. She has held leadership roles in organizations such as the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. She has elevated community voices in each setting while advocating for equitable and sustainable water and resource management for all of Hawai'i.

An 'ōlelo no'eau that speaks to her approach is:

“I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope.”

The future is in the past.

Hannah knows that the wisdom of our kūpuna guides the way forward. She brings that wisdom into every space — ensuring decisions are made with care, humility, and aloha 'āina.

We urge you to confirm her appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

‘O mākou nō me ka,



Kaikea Nakachi, Vice President
For all of us at Hui Kahuwai

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:08:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Nakachi	Testifying for Moana Ohana	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senate Committee,

Strong support for Aunty Hannah Springer as Loea for the Water commission!

Mahalo for your support and approval of her nomination. Respectfully, Mike Nakachi, Moana Ohana, Moku O Keawe.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

April 11, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 229

In SUPPORT of GM770: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, Hannah Springer, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination to serve as the Commission on Water Resource Management loea.

As the primary entity tasked with overseeing and managing our islands' most precious resource, the Water Commission is arguably the most important entity in state government. Meanwhile, as the individual responsible for imbuing the Commission's decisions with the wisdom of Native Hawaiian water management and riparian practices - critical to upholding the public trust, and ensuring the sustainable and equitable sharing of our life-giving wai for generations to come - the Commission's loea is also its most important member.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club is supremely grateful for this opportunity to support "Aunty" Hannah Springer's nomination to serve as the Water Commission's next loea.

For decades, Aunty Hannah has applied her deep cultural knowledge, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors and one hānau, to myriad efforts restoring and protecting Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and the natural and cultural resources upon which they rely. This includes collaborative efforts that have successfully protected historic trails, cultural accessways, fishing grounds, dryland forests, anchialine ponds, and subterranean streams and springs and associated practices in her home ahupua'a of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. More broadly, she has also advocated for cultural rights and practices across Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i, including through her work leading to the establishment of the Ka Pa'akai analytical framework, which for nearly three decades has helped to balance development and other actions with the protection of cultural resources and rights; the establishment and expansion of the Papahānānumokuākea Marine National Monument; and multiple programs and interventions protecting native species and cultural practices with the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, Kahu Kū Mauna, and the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, among many other groups.

Aunty Hannah's demonstrated ability to apply her cultural expertise to protecting and sustaining our islands' environmental and cultural integrity therefore make her an exceptional and historic choice for the Water Commission, as it navigates a new era of climate destabilization, decreasing sustainable yields, emerging contamination concerns, and increasing demands for water uses ranging from lo'i kalo cultivation to affordable housing to golf courses and luxury developments.

Beyond her cultural insights, Aunty Hannah also possesses a lifetime of experiences in public and community service generally, often bridging Native Hawaiian and Western worldviews and bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to collaboratively and creatively advance the public interest. Through this work she has gained the respect and admiration of community members from all walks of life, as evidenced in the numerous testimonies submitted in support of her nomination. The Sierra Club is highly confident that her wealth of experience in communication, relationship building, and creative problem solving, combined with the trust and confidence she has earned through her lifetime of service will also serve her and the Commission extremely well should her nomination be confirmed by the Senate.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly urges the Committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Aunty Hannah Springer's nomination in GM770. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



MĀLAMA LOKO EA FISHPOND

Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water & Land (WTL)

IN SUPPORT OF GM770

April 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Room 229 via Videoconference

We are Rae DeCoito and Honu‘āina Nichols, Mālama Loko Ea Foundation’s Executive Director and Climate Change Education Coordinator, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Mālama Loko Ea Foundation](#). **Our mission is to perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture through education, land stewardship, and community building, while sustainably restoring our previous natural resources. Our vision to do so is to connect the present to the past.** Hawai‘i’s biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

MLEF enthusiastically supports GM770 as an incremental step towards ‘āina momona.

It has long been in the spirit of our work that the formal governance of our resources increasingly reflect the leadership and wisdom of our community and their interdependence with their places and these islands. We are also familiar with the long process it has taken to fill this seat, and as such, **we express our deep kāko‘o (support) for the appointment of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management as the much-needed loea (expert)**, reserved for a member with substantial ‘ike (knowledge or expertise) in traditional Native Hawaiian water resource management techniques and traditional Native Hawaiian riparian usage. A lineal descendant of the celebrated kaha lands of Kā‘ūpulehu and Kūki‘o on Hawai‘i Island, Auntie Hannah, as so many affectionately call her, is an excellent choice for this role as a well-respected koa aloha ‘āina momona (fearless warrior for aloha ‘āina and abundance) in not only her own ahupua‘a, but across all of Hawai‘i.

Auntie Hannah played a significant role in the litigation that established the [Ka Pa‘akai analysis](#), a legal framework operationalizing our constitutional protections for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights that all governmental actors have an affirmative duty to follow. She is also a well-known community and civic club leader and environmentalist, former Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustee, member of our E Alu Pū Network Council, and valued member on the KUA Board since 2019. Further, Auntie Hannah is a founding and active member of the Ka‘ūpulehu Marine Life Advisory Committee and their [“Try Wait”](#) initiative to bring back abundance and responsible community-based nearshore management in the Ka‘ūpulehu and Kūko‘o ahupua‘a.

Beyond all her accomplishments, Auntie Hannah continues to inspire and guide countless other koa aloha ‘āina in Hawai‘i with her incredible mo‘olelo (storytelling) and oratorical skills, her aloha, grace, holu (resilience), and ha‘aha‘a (humbleness), all while maintaining that trademark twinkle in her eye. We cannot emphasize enough our support for her in this next calling to protect our most precious resource, wai, for generations to come.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence and “that which feeds” us all, requires long-term investment through a shared vision of achieving ‘āina momona (abundance) once again.** To get there requires dedicating more resources for mālama ‘āina (caring for our environment), including through this well-deserved appointment of Aunty Hannah as the much-needed loea on our Commission on Water Resource Management. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki’s keiki’s keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. We strongly urge your Committee to recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Aunty Hannah’s nomination.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:40:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edith Kawai	Testifying for Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club is honored to provide strong support for the nomination of HANNAH SPRINGER to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Ms. Springer's background speaks of a lifetime of service to Hawaii's people, history, and traditionals. Her knowledge comes from her work with the `aina, the culture, and its people. Her history of service clearly demonstrates that she will be a strong asset to the Commission in a time when resources cry out for, ike, understanding, and critical management.

Please approve Governor Green's wise nomination.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Edith Kawai, President, Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:34:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Kinney	Testifying for Hui Makaʻainana o Makana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ioha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui kākou for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's Ioea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in this measure - GM770.

We rejoice in the Governor's eventual decision to select her as a nominee. We believe that, in choosing her, he has chosen a candidate that is incredibly suited to fulfil and serve the Water Code, the commission, and the people of Hawai'i when in regards to water resources.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Commission's work. Her background is well documented, but we would like to testify on behalf of Aunty Hannah's appointment, by sharing our experiences of her aloha for Hā'ena and her advocacy in the efforts for community-based resource management. Serving on many boards and councils, as council member for Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo and founding / leadering member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members - Aunty Hannah deeply inspired and influenced the work Hā'ena's community were seeking to establish the first Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area and Management Plan in 2015. Her support, the knowledge and expertise she shared with us - often physically coming to Hā'ena to lend her hands and voice to the cause - ensured that our community successes in building strong community-to-government relations would become pa'a. For the past two decades, working with Aunty Hannah and her community, we have come to know of her profound ability to find solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives. Her approaches to and collaborative efforts have been and will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. For examples, just look to the source - her home and upbringing.

Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, known as "ke kaha wai 'ole," a waterless region. She is - in fact - so grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, she embodies and understands more than anyone what it means to thrive the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a and possibly, too, an uncertain water future.

Her soft words, and aloha for each and every person, is reflected in her belief of the preciousness of wai. The precarity of every discussion, reflecting how water and our words will be increasingly important and we will be inclined to be more articulate than ever before. Aunty Hannah, as we have seen in her advocacy for the Hā'ena CBSFA many years ago, is one of the most articulate individuals we know. She is amiable and always allows aloha to enter each discussion. And so, we will seek the protection of aloha in each discourse regarding wai as if the sharing and protection of if aloha in discussion was the increasingly limited resource itself.

No laila, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.



HAWAII

1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512

Honolulu, HI 96813

tpl.org

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April 9, 2025

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Re: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 770 / Nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the
Commission on Water Resource Management
Hearing Date / Time: Friday, April 11, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., Rm 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

Trust for Public Land strongly supports the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (COWRM). I have known Hannah for over 30 years and have worked with her professionally in as an attorney for the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, an attorney and partner at Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing (now Dentons), and in my current position as State Director for the Trust for Public Land's Hawai'i program.

Hannah has dedicated her life to safeguarding Hawaiian culture and values, perpetuating Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices, particularly those relating to water resources. She has over 40 years of experience, serving as an OHA Trustee and was one of the early advocates/parties whose efforts resulted in a Hawai'i Supreme Court decision known as Ka Pa'akai that requires state agencies to evaluate impacts of agency actions on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights guaranteed under Hawai'i's Constitution. She is a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee and has ancestral ties to Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o and the cultural knowledge necessary to balance critical water management issues.

Moreover, Hannah is simply a wonderful human being – with aloha and respect for all. She would be an excellent addition to the COWRM, and I give my highest recommendation and endorsement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I regret that I cannot attend the hearing in person due to a prior commitment.

Mahalo,

Lea Hong, Associate Vice-President & Hawai'i State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 9:52:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Cypher	Testifying for Ko`olau Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye and Members of this Committee:

The Ko`olau Foundation offers its strong support for the appointment of Hannah Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

We have known Ms. Springer for many years and have observed that she is a reasoned, thoughtful advocate for wise management of island resources. In our view, she can be counted on to provide pragmatic, balanced and fair assessments of all matters that come before the Water Commission - and is the kind of commissioner that this particular panel needs. We are confident that she will render wise judgment while in service on that body.

We urge your consideration of our mana`o.

Mahalo,

Mahealani Cypher, Ko`olau Foundation

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 5:32:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition SUPPORTS Hannah Springer!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 6:13:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loa. For the Fishes, a Maui based non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of coral reef wildlife, believes she is an exceptional candidate for this position.

Hannah Springer is a highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several. She is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Inga Gibson

Policy Director, For the Fishes

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 3:31:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo & Mālama Pono

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 8:20:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports the candidacy of Hanna K Springer to the Ioea Seat on the Water Commission. Her nomination is supported by the Governor and she is a respected kupuna regarding traditional as well as western use of water.

Mahalo for your time.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 3:33:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaala Kaaumoana	Testifying for Hanalei Watershed Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

The Hanalei Watershed Hui is most proud to strongly support the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer for the Hawaii State Water Commission. Ms. Springer exemplifies the expertise, commitment and cultural foundation this Commission requires and deserves. She knows the laws and the reasons for them and has the respect and admiration of a grateful community for all her hard work to malama aina.

Mahalo for this opportunity to support this very worthy candidate.

Makaala

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come



Senate Committee on Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Date: April 11, 2025

Time: 1:00pm

Place: Room 229

**IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE:
HANNAH SPRINGER, GM 770**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian homestead beneficiary farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee **HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER**, as reflected in GM 770.

We strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination.

We are grateful for the Governor's reversed decision in finally selecting a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles, the role of loea: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Ms. Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development

and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Ms. Hannah Springer is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, we strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Ms. Hannah Springer's nomination, as reflected in GM 770.

Mahalo nui,
~Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
Pana'ewa, Hawai'i



April 11, 2025

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs testifies in **SUPPORT** of GM 770 which confirms Hannah Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management. We support the confirmation of qualified Native Hawaiians to government appointments and boards and commissions to ensure our state government reflects the communities it serves.

Hannah Springer is a member of the Kona Hawaiian Civic Club and has decades of experience in serving on advisory councils and boards focused on environmental protection, cultural heritage and community-based resource management. Ms. Springer also has expertise necessary to hold the loea seat on the commission reserved for a member with substantial experience in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 60 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai‘i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of our support for Hannah Springer.



April 9, 2025

Aloha Chair, Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu offers our strong support for GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management.

As an organization committed to Hawai'i's liberation from corporate control and military destruction, we believe that water governance is the defining issue of our time. From the increasing pressures of climate change to the urgent need to restore sustainable food systems, to our ability to simply have clean water to drink, the decisions we make today about wai will determine whether Hawai'i has a livable, just future for the majority of its people, especially Native Hawaiian and working-class families.

Hannah Springer is a powerful choice to help guide these decisions. As a respected kia'i, farmer, and cultural practitioner, she brings a lived and learned understanding of traditional water governance systems—systems that were codified into law by our ali'i in the Hawaiian Kingdom. The stakes are higher than ever and that same spirit must guide our modern institutions, and Ms. Springer's voice is critical to that effort.

Her presence on the Commission would strengthen its ability to make decisions grounded in cultural integrity, community accountability, and ecological balance. We believe her contributions will help forge a strong collective within the Commission—one capable of managing this most precious resource not just for today, but for generations to come.

We respectfully urge you to confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Me ka 'ōia'i'o,
Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu

K. Kamakaoka'ilima Long, President
Joy Lehuanani Enomoto, Vice President
Kylie Noelani Akiona, Secretary

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 12:47:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Kanaeholo	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,
Kale Kanaeholo, M.A.
Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 1:35:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malialani Kana'iaupuni	Testifying for Hui Aloha 'Āina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission's work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai'i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,

Mālialani Kana'iaupuni

Member, Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 2:43:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaw Kailaka Pascua	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,
Shaw Kailaka Pascua
Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 4:34:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ifit Hoppe-Cruz	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,

Ifit Hoppe-Cruz

Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 5:06:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emi Jenkins	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,

Emi Jenkins

Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 5:44:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tsonnemaker15@gmail.com	Testifying for Kaheawai Media	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the

highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 8:14:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoa Makanahale Ventura-Barreto	Testifying for Ka Ahahui Hawaii Aloha Aina (The Hawaiian Patriotic League)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina e Lorraine Inouye, Brandon Elefante, and members of the committee,

I stand with my fellow Ka Ahahui Hawaii Aloha Aina members in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Aunty Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Wai does not belong to corporations, the american military, or private developers---it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the ‘āina and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ‘ike kūpuna to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and greater public trust to the Commission's work.

In this moment of profit-driven ecological destruction and widespread economic inequality, Kō Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

We demand you to confirm Aunty Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Kanoa Makanahale Ventura-Barreto

Proud member, Ka Ahahui Hawaii Aloha Aina (A.K.A. Hui Aloha Aina) (The Hawaiian Patriotic League)

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 11:07:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Lum	Testifying for Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770. My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the President of the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, and 50-year-old member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, which stewards Loko I'a Pā'aiau, the royal fishpond of Mō'ī Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, in Kalauao, O'ahu.

Mahalo nui loa to Governor Green for selecting an esteemed nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In so doing, he has chosen a highly respected candidate to serve on the Commission.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a steadfast and revered cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work.

I was very familiar with her and her work as an OHA Trustee and have benefitted from her leadership with the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo.

A founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o is precedential.

These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands'

rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kehaulani Lum

President, Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 7:01:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gracey Gomes	Testifying for Makana No Ke Kasiaulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the

Commission on Water Resource Management

Friday April 11, 2025 at 1PM

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Gracey Gomes and I am from Paukukalo Hawaiian Homestead and Vice President of our non-profit 501 (3) C known as Makana No Ke Kaiaulu . I am in STRONG SUPPORT of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries, and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For

over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully and strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Gracey Gomes

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:30:23 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Coules	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

**Mahalo nui,
Ruth Coules
Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu**

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:32:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mau Ha	Testifying for Democratic Socialists of Oahu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,
Mau Ha

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 7:07:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey	Testifying for Hui Aloha Aina O Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,
Corey Asano
Member, Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:11:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chipper Wichman	Testifying for National Tropical Botanical Garden	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying today in strong support of Hannah Kihalani Springer for the loea position on the Commission on Water Resource Management. I have known Aunty Hannah for over 30 years and have always been impressed with not only her diverse knowledge as a native Hawaiian practitioner but also her demeanor and interpersonal skills which will be important in serving on the Commission. With climate change and over development of our limited water resources threatening the future sustainability of the wai on each of our islands having someone with Aunty Hannah ike (knowledge) on the commission is critical. I also wanted to note that Aunty has extensive in public service and has served as an OHA Trustee, had an important role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis (which is now a state-wide requirement for new projects), and is a founding member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony! Please vote yes to the appointment of Hannah Kihalani Springer for the loea position on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Chipper Wichman, PhD, FLS
President Emeritus
National Tropical Botanical Garden



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 9, 2025

Testimony in Support of GM770 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HANNAH SPRINGER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028

TO: Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

DATE: Friday, April 11, 2025, **TIME:** 1:00 p.m. **PLACE:** Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

FROM: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports GM770, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee Hannah Springer, for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

Hannah Springer's extensive experience and dedication to Hawai'i's natural resources make her an exceptional candidate for this critical role. Her deep understanding of water resource management, coupled with her commitment to cultural preservation and environmental stewardship, ensures that she will contribute meaningfully to the Commission's mission.

Key reasons for supporting Hannah Springer's nomination include:

- **Expertise in Water Resource Management:** Hannah Springer has demonstrated a profound knowledge of Hawai'i's water systems and the challenges they face, including issues related to conservation, sustainability, and equitable access.
- **Commitment to Cultural Values:** As a respected community leader, she integrates Native Hawaiian perspectives and practices into her work, fostering a holistic approach to resource management.
- **Proven Leadership:** Hannah Springer's track record of collaboration and advocacy highlights her ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to address complex environmental issues.

- **Dedication to Public Service:** Her unwavering commitment to serving Hawai‘i’s communities ensures that decisions made by the Commission will prioritize the well-being of residents and the protection of natural resources.

We are confident that Hannah Springer’s appointment will strengthen the Commission on Water Resource Management and advance efforts to safeguard Hawai‘i’s water resources for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

**SENATOR LORRAINE INOUE, CHAIR
SENATOR BRANDON ELEFANTE, VICE-CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**Testimony in Strong Support of GM770:
Confirming Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Water Commission**

**Friday, April 11, 2025, 1 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Committee Members:

My name is JoAnne Kaona. I am a fourth generation Native Hawaiian kalo farmer in Wai'oli Valley and the Secretary of the Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of GM770, the confirmation of Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Water Commission.**

Our Hui of about a dozen small family farmers has been growing kalo on the same 'āina in Wai'oli Valley for many, many generations. We work to support and enhance the ma uka to ma kai biocultural resources primarily in the Wai'oli Stream Watershed, protect the natural and cultural resources that enable traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices, maintain habitat for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, and engage the greater Kaua'i community through educational outreach programs and initiatives relating to kalo farming and community-based stewardship of water resources.

As you may recall, our lives on Kaua'i's North Shore were upended in 2018 with what some have described as a thousand-year flood event. We went from focusing on kalo farming to being forced to navigate a complicated web of permits and exemptions from the Water Commission, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaiian Homes Commission, and host of other County, State, and Federal entities. We could not have done this without kōkua from so many, including Chair Inouye and this Committee who supported us with concurrent resolutions and bills.

Our experience underscored the importance of having decisionmakers – including on the Water Commission – who deeply understand Native Hawaiian culture and practices. Despite phenomenal staff, without the expertise and vision of Commissioners Kamana Beamer and Neil Hannahs, we are not confident that the interim instream flow standard for Wai'oli Stream would have reflected the biocultural stewardship and traditional practices – such as Kalana – that it does. This expertise is vital not just for cultural practitioners, but for anyone who appears before the Water Commission. Fortunately, you have that with Aunty Hannah. **Please pass out GM770 today and confirm her to this Commission.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

JoAnne Kaona

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:07:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Onekea	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Like the air we breathe, access to water should be a human right; water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Government has a responsibility to provide water equally to the public.

Traditional Native Hawaiian practices regarding ʻāina and wai were regenerative. Water was used in such a way that the resource was shared and recirculated, not hoarded and squandered by a few. For the sake of Hawaii's future, decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission's work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai'i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,

Kawehi Onekea

Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 3:42:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 7:17:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery , as co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we are testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

We are grateful for the Governor's decision to do the right thing and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February! In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. What a blessing.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

This is a pivotal moment for Hawai'i and the Green Party of Hawai'i, strongly urges that the

Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:41:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Engle	Testifying for Hui Aloha 'Aina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,**I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.****Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.****Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.****In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.****Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.****Mahalo nui,****L. Engle****Member, Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu**



Subject: Testimony in Support of Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer for the CWRM Loea Seat **GM 770**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to provide my heartfelt testimony in **support** of Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination for the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). As a dedicated member of our community and a guardian of traditional Native Hawaiian water resource management techniques, Hannah embodies the essence of aloha and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that is truly invaluable.

Having had the privilege of knowing Hannah for 15 years and working closely with her in various capacities, I can attest to her unwavering commitment to preserving our precious water resources. Her dedication to serving our community has been evident in every endeavor she undertakes, whether it be through panel discussions, boards, committees, community meetings, or field work. Hannah's life history is a testament to her passion for environmental stewardship and her deep-rooted connection to the land and water.

Hannah is a true Kupuna in every sense of the word, embodying the core Hawaiian values of Aloha, Kokua, Kuleana, Ha'a Ha'a, Ikaika, and Many more – She is the whole dictionary. Her knowledge, which has been passed down through generations, is a treasure trove of wisdom that spans thousands of years. In a world where such traditional knowledge is increasingly rare, Hannah stands as a beacon of light, guiding us towards a more sustainable and harmonious future.

I wholeheartedly and without any reservations support Hannah's nomination for the CWRM Loea seat. Her expertise, her passion, and her unwavering dedication make her the ideal candidate to represent the voice of traditional Native Hawaiian water resource management on the Commission. I urge you to confirm her nomination and allow her to continue her important work in safeguarding our water resources for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ekolu Lindsey

Edwin "Ekolu" Lindsey
President
Maui Cultural Lands

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:44:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Akiona	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

O wau o Noelani Akiona, and I kākoʻo the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in **strong support of GM 770** and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Wai is an integral part of Hawaiʻi and as a descendant of kiaʻi wai, mahiʻai, and aloha ʻāina of Mauihikina, this critical moment is especially important to me and my loved ones. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Kihalani Springer is a widely trusted cultural practitioner and steward who can bring a lifetime of ʻike to the CWRM's kulana of determining the ways in which we care for this most vital resource. Her voice in the Loea seat would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission's work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawaiʻi needs leadership like Hannah Springer who is grounded in accountability to our kaiāulu, mea Hawaiʻi, lāhui, and our future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the CWRM Loea seat.

Me ke aloha,

Noelani Akiona

Secretary, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:43:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barryn Chun	Testifying for Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai *must* center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,

Barryn Chun

Member, Hui Aloha ʻĀina o Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:09:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion K A Kapuniai	Testifying for Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Assn/Waimea Nui CDC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ms. Springer has the experience and wisdom to be an invaluable addition to this Water Commission.

She also has the cultural knowledge necessary to advocate for any and all water management issues.

Thank you,

M Kapuniai

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:27:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john carty	Testifying for Save Honolulu Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Save Honolulu Coalition in strong support of GM-770 and the appointment of Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Our coalition has long worked to protect and restore the natural and cultural integrity of Honolulu Bay and its surrounding watershed, and we recognize that the future of Hawai‘i’s water resources requires thoughtful, place-based, and community-rooted leadership. Hannah Springer exemplifies these qualities. A lifelong resident of Hawai‘i Island and a respected advocate for natural and cultural resources, Ms. Springer brings deep ‘ike and decades of hands-on experience in stewarding Hawai‘i’s most vital resource: wai.

Hannah Springer’s knowledge is grounded not only in academic and professional experience, but in generational connection to the land and water. She understands the delicate balance between environmental protection and community needs, and she brings a voice that centers the perspectives of lineal descendants, subsistence gatherers, and the often-unheard communities that rely on healthy watersheds for survival. Her leadership reflects an understanding that water is not just a resource, but a sacred trust that must be managed with responsibility, foresight, and aloha ‘āina.

At a time when climate change, overdevelopment, and competing interests place immense pressure on our fresh water systems, the Commission on Water Resource Management needs members who can navigate complexity while staying rooted in the values that define Hawai‘i. Hannah Springer has consistently shown that she can do exactly that. We urge you to support GM-770 and confirm her appointment to the Commission. Her presence will strengthen the Commission’s work and ensure that water is managed for the benefit of both the environment and future generations.



April 10, 2025

From: Huliauapa'a
P.O. Box 141
Hakalau, HI 96710

To: Lorraine R. Inouye
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land

**Re: Support for the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM),
Gubernatorial Nominee, Hannah Kihalani Springer.**

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Huliauapa'a is a Hawaiian non-profit organization with a mission to educate and empower students, communities, and professionals on the stewardship of Hawai'i's wahi kūpuna (ancestral places). We are writing in strong support of Hannah Springer's confirmation to the Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat ("loea seat") on the Commission on Water Resource Management, as reflected in GM770.

Our support of this nomination stems from over a decade of work with Hannah Springer and the Ka'ūpūlehu community. This includes our annual Wahi Kūpuna Internship Program (WKIP) in 2012 and, more recently, a project with the Ahupua'a Accelerator Initiative from 2023-2024 aimed at strengthening adaptive community-led ahupua'a stewardship of the rich and diverse biocultural resources in Ka'ūpūlehu. Since 2021, Hannah Springer has been a member of the Kali'uokapa'akai Collective Papa Kāheka (Kūpuna Council), providing integral insights and strategic direction to build capacity and take collective action in safeguarding Hawai'i's wahi kūpuna. The Kali'uokapa'akai Collective is a community of practice of advocates in wahi kūpuna stewardship, and Huliauapa'a currently serves as its administrative backbone.

The CWRM plays a vital role in overseeing and protecting Hawai'i's water resources, which are essential to the life and culture of our island communities. The loea seat is critical, ensuring that at least one Commissioner has "substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101," namely traditional and customary practices. HRS § 174C-7(b). Importantly, the loea seat provides technical expertise to the Commission and is an important bridge for community outreach and trust-building efforts. In the initial discussions around amending the Water Code to add the Loea seat, the House Committee on Judiciary found that a Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat "...would be beneficial to include on the Commission to better perform its duties." H. Stand. Comm. Rep. No. 1503, in 2003 House Journal, at 1653. Since the CWRM makes decisions that could impact native Hawaiian water rights, it is integral that whoever is selected for this position has sufficient expertise in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage and is also trusted by the Hawaiian community.

Hannah Kihalani Springer, a kama'āina of Ka'ūpūlehu, Kona 'Ākau, is indeed that person. She is qualified to serve as the loea seat and is highly respected in the Hawaiian community. "Auntie" Hannah is one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Water Commission. She is a deeply respected cultural practitioner and historian with lineal ties to Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, where her 'ohana has lived for generations, not only surviving but thriving in a space famously referred to as "ke



April 10, 2025

kahawai'ole." In a place named for its scarcity of water, Auntie Hannah stands as a living testament of the generational knowledge essential to thriving in the highly variable rainfall conditions of this ahupua'a. As a lifelong advocate for elevating and integrating 'ike Hawai'i and community voices into decisions directly affecting our 'āina and kai, she brings a plethora of much-needed experience to the Commission. Her deep commitment to aloha 'āina is evident in her role as a steadfast advocate, beautifully weaving 'ike kūpuna, wahi kūpuna, and 'ike Hawai'i to the forefront of Hawai'i's environmental movement.

Auntie Hannah has participated in two critical legal interventions during the land-use planning process at Ka'ūpūlehu. One, an Army Corps of Engineers dredging permit, caused the kūpe'e nests, limu-beds, and a particular moi hole found at the dredging site to be analyzed using National Historic Preservation Act criteria, not just as part of a biological assessment. The other, known as "Ka Pa'akai O Ka 'Āina," ushered in the Cultural Impact Assessment requirement and the consideration of the intangible aspects of culture. Beyond Auntie Hannah's groundbreaking role in integrating 'ike Hawai'i and community voices in government and agency decision-making processes, her experience is evident in the sheer number of positions she has held on advisory councils, nonprofit boards, and state commissions focused on environmental protection, cultural heritage, and community-based resource management. Notably, she has served as a member of the Hawai'i County Planning Commission and the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission. She was also a leading advocate for the successful designation and expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument; a founding and current leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, which successfully advocate for a ten year, all species rest period; a past and present board member of a plethora of native hawaiian serving organizations including Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and even served as an Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustee. Her long history of service and commitment to bridging various perspectives and knowledge to find practical solutions makes her an excellent candidate as a member of the Commission.

Hannah Kihalani Springer is one of the best possible candidates to serve in the CWRM's loa seat. In an unprecedented era of climate destabilization and water scarcity, Auntie Hannah will bring a wealth of community leadership and creative problem-solving to the CWRM. She is truly an embodiment of aloha 'āina to the highest degree of respect within the Hawaiian community. Accordingly, we respectfully and strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Auntie Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kelley L. Uyeoka
Executive Director, Huliauapa'a
kelley@huliauapaa.org
www.huliauapaa.org

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:40:21 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Lamson	Testifying for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770. We have known and worked alongside aunty Hannah for many decades and can attest to her passion, commitment, knowledge, humility and service to our community.

We are thankful for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, we respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing about her confirmation in this Loea seat on CWRM at tomorrow's hearing.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Megan Lamson

HWF President

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:29:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivan Louis	Testifying for Villages of La'iohua Board of Directors (VOLA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Testimony in Strong Support of GM770 – Hannah Kihalani Springer

Aloha, my name is Ivan Louis, and I am from the Villages of La'iohua (VOLA). I write in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer as the Water Commission's designated loa, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

Aunt Hannah is a respected cultural practitioner, community leader, and lifelong aloha 'āina. Her decades of work—including serving as an OHA Trustee, helping develop the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and leading efforts with the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee—reflect deep expertise and commitment to protecting wai.

As a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, she carries 'ike kūpuna essential to informed and balanced water decisions. Her knowledge is especially critical as we face climate instability and increasingly limited water resources.

I urge the Committee to recommend the Senate advise and consent to her confirmation. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Ivan K Louis, Vice President

Villages of La'iopua Board of Directors

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:47:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelii Kotubetey	Testifying for Paepae o He'eia	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am Keli'i Kotubetey representing Paepae o He'eia - a community organization responsible for restoring and revitalizing He'eia Fishpond on Oahu.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.



Senate Committee on
Water and Land

April 10, 2025

RE: Supporting confirmation of Hannah Springer for the Water Commission's loea seat.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation is in strong SUPPORT of GM 770 which confirms Auntie Hannah Springer to serve in the loea seat of the Water Commission. We support the confirmation of qualified Native Hawaiians to government appointments and boards and commissions to ensure our state government reflects the communities it serves.

Auntie Hannah is well respected in the community, and has the expertise required to fulfill her kuleana (responsibility) on the Water Commission. As a cultural practitioner and historian, she understands the natural world from the perspective of those who have been the caretakers of this 'āina (land) for generations. Auntie is a community leader with integrity. A former OHA trustee, leading advocate for the successful designation of the expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and founding member of the Ka'ūpulehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, just to name a few accolades, auntie has both the cultural knowledge and leadership skills that will be a vital asset to the Commission and its work.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation was founded in 1970 to protect Moanalua Valley from the H3 being built through it. As a culturally grounded 'āina organization, we support the appointment of qualified Kanaka to government positions and appointments that impact our 'āina and communities across the Pae 'āina.

We mahalo the Committee for its time and consideration and reaffirm our strong support for the confirmation of Hanna Springer.

Please feel free to contact me by email at ian@mgfhawaii.org or by phone at 808-468-1686 x101 with any questions or concerns, or if we may provide any further information.

Mahalo,



Ian Keali'i Custino

Executive Director
MGF Hawai'i



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the Senate Committee on
Water and Land

In Support of Gubernatorial Nominee No. 770
RELATING TO CONFIRMATION OF HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER TO THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

To Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and the honorable members of the committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lāhainā Strong, an organization deeply rooted in our community's resilience and advocacy. Originally formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and revitalized after the devastating fires of August 8, 2023, Lāhainā Strong has become the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 35,000 supporters. Our mission is to amplify local voices and champion community-driven solutions, which are more critical than ever as we continue rebuilding and recovering.

Lāhainā Strong writes in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Commission on Water Resource Management's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

For our community in Lahaina, this appointment could not come at a more critical time. Our people have endured generations of water struggle — from the illegal diversion of streams and the destruction of ecosystems, to worsening drought and the devastating aftermath of the August fires. We have witnessed firsthand the impacts of water privatization across West Maui, where the majority of our wai has been controlled and withheld. And yet, we are expected to rebuild amid ongoing scarcity and lack of access to a resource that is supposed to be protected as a public trust.

The confirmation of Aunty Hannah offers a sense of grounding and hope. Her lifelong commitment to mālama wai is not academic or theoretical — it's rooted in 'āina, kuleana, and decades of direct community engagement. From her service as an OHA

Trustee to her pivotal role in developing the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, to her leadership in dryland areas like Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, Aunty Hannah brings the depth of knowledge, lived experience, and cultural grounding that this seat demands.

Lāhaina needs water leadership that sees wai not just as a resource to manage, but as a relative to protect — as the foundation of life, identity, and justice. With climate change accelerating and pressure on our water systems growing, the presence of a true loea at the table is more important than ever.

We urge this Committee to **advise and consent to the nomination of Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Water Commission, as reflected in GM770**. Her leadership will serve not only our community in Lāhainā, but all of Hawai‘i as we navigate a future where pono water stewardship is non-negotiable.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Sincerely,

Lāhainā Strong



Senate Committee on Water and Land
April 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM, State Capitol Conference Room 229

Kūmano I Ke Ala's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 770

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members,

Kūmano I Ke Ala submits this testimony in **strong support of GM 770**. Kūmano I Ke Ala ("KIKa") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community-based organization with the mission of empowering West Kaua'i through native land rehabilitation, food system revitalization, workforce training and youth development. Our work is centered around purveying Hawaiian culture, designing restored agricultural spaces, engaging the next generation of cultural practitioners and increasing commercial production of kalo locally to secure long term community access to affordable native Hawaiian staple foods.

Since 2015, KIKa has come to steward over 50 acres of indigenous agricultural land in West Kaua'i, revitalizing traditional Hawaiian practices like mahi'ai kalo (kalo farming) to promote food sovereignty and sustainability. In 2024, KIKa processed and sold 70,000 pounds of kalo to support local farmers and increase Hawai'i's food sovereignty, collaborated with volunteers for a total of 8,800 volunteer hours at site visits and community workdays, and directly engaged 5,000 Hawai'i youth with cultural educational experiences.

The work we do at KIKa depends on pono environmental stewardship of 'āina, consistent access to wai, and the continued ability to preserve and protect our cultural sites and practices. Thankfully, the Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member Water Commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the harm of a century of water mismanagement.

Aunty Hannah was raised in a traditional Hawaiian household in the rural, dry slopes of Ka'ūpūlehu. She grew up in an environment with variable rainfall and knows how to manage on a limited water source better than most. As you can see from her resume, she has worked diligently over 40 years to teach and advance these practices with anyone willing to learn. In the face of a climate crisis, Red Hill, and other water shortages throughout the state, her leadership is exactly what we need to handle these challenges.

Kūmano I Ke Ala strongly urges your Committee to confirm the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management and **VOTE 'AE on GM 770**.

Me ke aloha 'āina,
Kaina Makua, President, Kūmano I Ke Ala



Senate Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: GM770

Friday, April 11th, 2025 at 1:00pm; Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's Ioea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Hannah Springer has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Anne Frederick,
Executive Director

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 770
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource
Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hearing: April 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 229

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members,

Nā Kiaʻi Kai submits this testimony in **strong support to GM 770**. We urge this committee to confirm Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Nā Kiaʻi Kai is a community-based organization established by West Kauaʻi residents, including Native Hawaiian fishers and cultural practitioners, to protect West Kauaʻi's river and coastal waters, humans, and aquatic life from pollution. For decades, Nā Kiaʻi Kai has advocated on behalf of our community against a multitude of environmental harms.

For more than a century, West Kauaʻi has borne the brunt of the island's environmental and cultural injustices. Beginning in the late 1800s, sugar plantations filled and channelized the Mānā Plain—once home to a thriving network of wetlands and freshwater springs—to artificially create dry land suitable for sugar cultivation. For over a century, these sugar plantations dammed and completely drained the Waimea River and its tributaries to irrigate its crops. This water pumping and water diversion infrastructure is still in operation today and has all but destroyed the complex stream, wetland, and reef ecosystems along West Kauaʻi from mauka to makai.

We support Springer's appointment to the Water Commission because she has the background, experience, and relationships necessary to help Hawaiʻi navigate its way back to sharing and distributing our limited water supply in a more just and sustainable way. Her nomination signals to everyone that the old ways of favoring profit motives above all else is ending. To be clear, the Green Administration tried really hard to get another advocate of commercial diversions on the Commission, but public pressure would not let them get away with that. And as a result we now have a highly qualified, and very well respected elder of our community representing our interests on the Water Commission.

Nā Kiaʻi Kai strongly urges this Committee to confirm Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management by voting **YES to GM 770**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kawai Warren
President, Nā Kiaʻi Kai

TO: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Hōkūao Aki

**RE: GM770
Hearing on April 11, 2025
IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM770**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

E nā pua o Hawai‘i mai Hawai‘i moku o Keawe a i ke one o Papahānaumoku. I ke kilipohe e pā mai ana ma Mauna Hina, i ka wai kuhinia o Kepaniwai, i ka ‘oi kapu o Kū Ka‘e moku, ‘ano ‘ai me ke aloha, ‘O Hōkūao Aki ko‘u inoa a no Kumuwiliwili mai au. ‘O ke kula kaiapuni ki‘eki‘e o Kekaulike ma Maui ke kula a‘u e hele ana.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of **Hannah Kihalani Springer** to serve as the Water Commission’s loea.

The Governor's decision to appoint a nominee from the list provided by the Water Commission is not only the right course of action but also ensures that this crucial role is filled by someone qualified. In selecting Aunty Hannah Springer, he has chosen a leader and role model whose experience, cultural knowledge, and dedication to mālama ‘āina and mālama wai make her exceptionally well-suited for this very crucial kuleana.

As an ‘ōpio who has the privilege of being grounded in Hawai‘i and immersed in ‘Ike Hawai‘i, I’ve come to see firsthand how vital our pilina to wai truly is. **“Ola i ka wai a ka ‘ōpua.”** Growing up in a time where water mismanagement and misguided decisions have become far too common, I’ve felt the deep impact this has on our ‘āina, our kaiāulu, and our future. I’ve witnessed how greed, corruption and moral failure have allowed the mismanagement and neglect of wai, treating this precious, life-giving force, as if it were limitless and dispensable.

Our generation is living with the consequences of choices that did not prioritize sustainability, cultural understanding, or long-term thinking. **“O ke kahua ma mua, ma hope ke kūkulu.”**

Aunty Hannah Springer committed her life to mālama ‘Āina and mālama wai, guided by pono and ‘Ike kūpuna. **“I ulu no ka lālā i ke kumu.”** Her guidance can help restore balance to how we manage wai, honoring both traditional practices and modern needs. As an ‘ōpio who cares deeply for this ‘āina, wai and its future, I believe that her presence on the Water Commission will help shift us toward decisions that uplift kaiāulu, culture and sustainability.

For the sake of future generations, I **strongly urge** the Committee to recommend that the Senate **advise and consent** to Aunty Hannah Springer's nomination as outlined in GM770.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration.

OLA I KA WAI, he ola no kō laila.

TO: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Kekaulaiwi Farm

RE: **GM770**
Hearing on April 11, 2025
IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM770

Aloha mai to Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land. My name is Kekaulaiwi Farm, he haumana mai ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Kekaulike.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the selection of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or as a Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As we have continued to raise awareness about the worries of how our leo will be heard in the protection of our precious resource of water, we are grateful for the governor’s decision to follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. He has nominated an outstanding candidate to serve on the Commission for one of its most significant roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Given her standing as a highly respected cultural practitioner, community leader, and as a dedicated lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, she fills a critical gap in the cultural knowledge currently lacking on the Water Commission. From serving as an OHA trustee to holding positions on numerous nonprofit boards—such as the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo—she exemplifies the experience and kuleana required of an alaka‘i and loea, a true leader.

She actively engages with communities across Hawai‘i, from private landowners and developers to lineal descendants and community members, all united by a shared commitment to preserving the ‘āina, wai, lāhui, and mo‘okū‘auhau of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. She brings a unique and essential perspective that blends both Western and Hawaiian mana‘o, a vital element in the decision-making processes of the Commission. Also grounded from her ‘ike kūpuna and the understanding of how to flourish despite unfavorable rainfall conditions through pono management of this precious resource. ‘Anakē Hannah Springer will bring this vital perspective to the Water Commission.

He mea ko‘iko‘i e ho‘oholomua i nā hānana ‘ike ku‘una Hawai‘i, e like me ka mahi kalo, kia‘i loko i‘a, a me ka lawai‘a. Water is not only essential no ke ola but for the continuation of the sacred legacy of our kūpuna. Without it, that legacy ends with us. But with her deep commitment

and cultural wisdom, Hannah Kihalani Springer stands ready to ensure that this legacy not only endures but thrives for many generations to come.

I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate confirm Aunty Hannah's nomination. For her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, ua li'u nō i ka pa'akai. Mahalo.

TO: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Līhau Kealoha

RE: GM770
Hearing on April 11, 2025
IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM770

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee members,

‘O au nō ‘o Lihau Kili‘ohuakanoelehua Kealoha. No ka ‘āina ‘o Kamana‘ulu mai au ma ka moku ‘o Hamakuapoko a he haumāna ha‘aheo au o Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike.

I am honored to express my strong support for the election of Hannah Kihalani Springer as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

After various efforts and advocacies to have our water resources under the right control, we appreciate the Governor’s decision to select a nominee from the list provided by the Water Commission’s nominating committee last February. For this very important position, he has selected Auntie Hannah, a mana wahine and highly qualified individual who will bring much needed ‘ike Hawai‘i or cultural knowledge to the Water Commission.

Auntie Hannah Springer is a cultural practitioner, community leader, and someone whose connection and understanding of the land and water will contribute significantly to the Water Commission’s decisions. Her background demonstrates her dedication and care for our natural resources and cultural revitalization. Having been an OHA Trustee, she was involved in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis and guided development in a way that respects cultural practices while honoring modern lifestyle needs. She is also involved with many nonprofit organizations, including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo. Auntie Hannah has been a vital voice in the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, where she has built cultural and environmental awareness between developers, private landowners, cultural practitioners, and community members to collectively care for Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. Her ability to bring people together, to find balanced solutions, and to encourage work as a collective will be crucial to the work of the Commission moving forward.

In Hawaiian traditions as seen in the Kumulipo, kānaka are interconnected to our resources. He wa‘a he moku, he moku he wa‘a. Our resources are more scarce now than ever before, and we as Hawaiians are neglected and stripped of our traditions due to unethical decisions made about what we prioritize in the use of our wai. Water is essential to our lives, to our well-being, and is key to the survival of our culture. As a student of kula kaiapuni, a hula practitioner, and a youth, I believe that appointing the knowledgeable and well-educated Aunty Hannah Springer will ensure the preservation of wai in ways that benefit the collective.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Aunty Hannah Springer’s nomination. Mahalo nui for your time, ola i ka wai.

TO: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Kūali‘i Kimokeo

**RE: GM770
Hearing on April 11, 2025
IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM770**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles, Hannah Kihalani Springer.

In my 16 years of life growing up on Maui, Hawai‘i, I have seen a decline of natural resources in our marine ecosystems like kole, limu kohu, limu līpoa, and many more species because of the misuse of water by private entities. Our reefs are dying because the only time some of the streams run all the way to the ocean is when the rain causes flooding. This is especially true where I live in Ke‘anae; the water for the many streams that are diverted now lay dry, which has impacted our cultural practices of gathering food and resources in a negative way. Where the land was once rich with native species, invasives have taken over the land and sea because of the altering of natural ecosystems that were once abundant with water.

Hannah Springer understands these impacts to the water and how it affects our ecosystem. Her work with Ka‘ūpūlehu is a good example of being connected to the ‘āina (land and sea). Hannah Springer is a respected Hawaiian cultural practitioner, one trusted by the community and who will advocate for data and culturally-informed decision making. Her experience, wisdom, and leadership will guide her to be invaluable to the Water Commision and their work. Her understanding of mauka to makai (mountains to the sea) systems will be greatly valued in the loea seat. She sees the importance of cultural and environmental functions of wai (water) from the rainforests, dryland

forests, and into the ocean. Her decades of work with the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee helped to set an example of how communities can intervene to preserve their environment and cultural traditions. Based on her experience, she can be the bridge between Western science and cultural traditions and practices. Her ability to use multiple perspectives will help to bring people together to balance difficult discussions and decision making.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination.

Sincerely,
Kuali'i Kimokeo
Ke'anae, Maui

TO: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Kanoa Kuailani

RE: GM770
Hearing on April 11, 2025
IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM770

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee members,

‘O au nō ‘o Kanoa Kekuamanohā Kuailani. No Hāna a me Wailuku, Maui mai au. Aia au ma ka papa 10 ma ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike. Today, I am here to testify in **strong** support of the election of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission Loea, as reflected in GM770.

I come from the small community of Hāna where many cultural traditions are practiced around water. Being a descendant from a lineage of fisherman and farmers, natural streamflow from mauka to makai is not only vital to my family but to the environment. Within my lifespan I have witnessed the mismanagement of wai. Familiar fishing spots and farming traditions have changed because of low streamflow or dried out rivers.

Wai is culture, it connects us to our past and is continuously found in our mo‘olelo, oli and mo‘okū‘auhau (genealogy chants). Wai keeps our cultural traditions alive, for example taro farming, fishing, and ceremonial practices. Wai builds pilina to our kūpuna by keeping their ‘ike alive in doing those Hawaiian practices. Wai feeds generations of ‘ohana. As you can tell wai is important to me, and is important to Hawaiian culture. Because of wai’s significance to me, the decision about who will be the loea on the Water Commission is very personal to me.

Hannah Springer has served Hawai‘i through community, wai and ‘āina work. Being from Kona she understands the importance of pono wai management and continues to protect our environmental resources through a cultural lens. I have faith that with Hannah Springer in the loea seat, our wai and cultural practices across the pae‘āina of Hawai‘i will have a proper voice in decision making.

I want water to be rightfully managed for the benefit of the people and the land. In years from now I want to see the abundance of wai, thriving ecosystems from mauka to makai just as my kūpuna witnessed.

Mahalo for your time!

TO: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Sesame Shim

**RE: GM770
Hearing on April 11, 2025
IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM770**

Mai ka ‘ūkiu e hihio ana i ka nāulu a ka ua Nahua me ka ua Lililehua e ola ai ka ‘āina, e ola ai nā ‘ia, nā holoholona, nā kānaka ho‘i i ke kahe pono ‘ana o ka wai mai uka a i kai. Eia nō mākou ke kāko‘o nei i ka pono o ka wai a puni ka Pae ‘Āina o Hawai‘i nei. Na ka Hawai‘i nona ka ‘ike e alaka‘i i ka pono no ka wai.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea.

I, along with my students have been following the decision making process of selecting a nominee for the loea seat on the Water Commission. As an advocate for water rights and justice over many years, I have seen the progress we have made as a community while having a proper loea. I understand the value and importance of choosing someone we can depend on to give our cultural traditions and practices the voice and power that it deserves. In the current structures and systems that we live in today, VOICE IS OUR POWER. Our maka‘ainana or everyday people do not have the power of money, and many do not even have the power of time. We are struggling to live our daily lives, practice our culture, and educate and support our people. However, when it comes to our resources, and continuing our traditions, we need to have the appropriate people in positions of power to truly support that. It is not a position to be compromising, it is a position to speak for those who cannot speak, our ‘āina.

I mahalo the Governor’s decision in selecting an appropriate nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

I would also like to mahalo Auntie Hannah Kihalani Springer for applying for this position. Our community applauds all that you have accomplished as a cultural practitioner, a community leader and someone who is truly dedicated to the pono of our ‘āina. He aloha ‘āina nō ‘o ‘Anakē Hannah Springer. I would like to highlight her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to

balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources. This analysis has provided clear checks and balances that we can depend on and revert to when the protection of our ‘āina and our cultural practices are not being considered. It is a comfort to know that we have a true loea, an EXPERT in our cultural practices and traditions in the thorough management of our wai resources.

He leo mahalo kēia iā ‘oe e ‘Anakē Hannah no kāu hana nui, kou ‘ike a me kou noke mau ‘ana no ka lāhui. E mau ana ka pa‘akīkī i kēia mau lā o ka paikāloa‘a, akā he hoeuli no kāu e ho‘okele ai a ho‘olohe ai i ka leo o ko kākou kaiāulu. Ke maka‘ala nei nā ‘ōpio Hawai‘i a ke akamai nei ho‘i lākou i kēia ‘ōnaehana. Maopopo nō iā lākou ka mana o ko lākou leo. A he nani nō.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination.

Ola i ka wai!



Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Water & Land

April 10, 2025

GM770 – Relating to consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.
STRONG SUPPORT

By Albert Perez
Executive Director
Maui Tomorrow Foundation

[COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND](#)
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

Maui Tomorrow Foundation respectfully submits testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) in the Loea seat.

Ms. Springer is an exceptionally well-qualified nominee with deep, lived experience and demonstrated commitment to the responsible stewardship of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. A lifelong kama'āina of Ka'ūpūlehu in North Kona, she brings not only substantial knowledge of traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques, but also a decades-long track record of community service, environmental protection, and cultural advocacy.

Ms. Springer's leadership has been felt across the pae 'āina, through her service on advisory councils and boards, including the Hawai'i County Planning Commission, the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission, and the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Her involvement with organizations such as the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee reflects her dedication to bridging traditional knowledge and modern resource management.

Her nomination fulfills the intent of the Water Code to ensure that this Loea seat is occupied by someone with deep experience in traditional Hawaiian water practices. More importantly, Ms. Springer has earned the trust and respect of community members, practitioners, and advocates who have long worked to restore balance in how we manage Hawai'i's most precious resource: wai.

Maui Tomorrow believes that effective water resource management requires both technical knowledge and cultural grounding. Ms. Springer exemplifies this rare combination. Her thoughtful, community-centered approach will help ensure that decisions made by the Commission reflect the values, rights, and responsibilities of the people of Hawai'i—particularly those who continue the traditional practices of kalo farming, riparian stewardship, and 'āina-based living.

We mahalo Governor Green for nominating such a qualified and respected leader to this critical role and urge the Senate to swiftly confirm her appointment.

Albert Perez
Executive Director
Maui Tomorrow Foundation

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hearing: April 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 229

Pō‘ai Wai Ola’s Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 770

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members,

Pō‘ai Wai Ola submits this testimony in **strong support of GM 770**, the appointment of Hannah Springer to the Commission of Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Pō‘ai Wai Ola is a community-based organization of residents in West Kaua‘i. Pō‘ai Wai Ola members are cultural practitioners, maha‘ai (farmers), and fresh water and reef lawai‘a (fishers). Our roots in the West Kaua‘i ahupua‘a span many generations. Our hui is dedicated to managing and conserving water resources for present and future generations and protecting the long-term sustainability and health of our watershed, from its mauka headwaters to makai nearshore marine areas.

Waimea River is the lifeblood of our community and supports a host of protected instream public trust uses—such as kalo cultivation and subsistence gathering. For generations, our community has watched as the Waimea River’s waters were diverted, first to feed plantations, and then by corporate farms who took over operation of the outdated and inefficient plantation-era water diversion infrastructure. For decades, tens of millions of gallons of water were diverted from the river every day, often causing large stretches of the river to run dry, cutting off the connection between the mountains and the sea. Throughout our lives, those with power and money have decided what to do with Waimea River’s precious water resources, which are supposed to belong to all of us. This is a power dynamic our community continues to combat as we seek to restore Waimea River flows to support public trust uses and restore dwindling populations of native streamlife that have been devastated by decades of wholesale water diversion.

The Water Commission is a key to properly addressing the long history of water mismanagement. The Commission has a seat dedicated to representing the expertise of cultural practitioners perpetuating Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices in agriculture and water management. Ms. Springer is a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, farmer, educator, conservationist, and advocate. She has authored several books on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and Hawaiian history. She is a kupa of Kukio and Ka‘ūpūlehu, an arid dryland forest still dominated by native forest flora and fauna. She is a former trustee to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and has served on many non-profit boards advocating for the protection and restoration of native ecosystems. She has the experience, background, and

approach critical to fulfilling the commission's mission to "protect and manage the waters of the State of Hawai'i for present and future generations."

She is known for saying "I am shaped by my geography." This is important because the geography of this region of Kona has long confronted many of the challenges the rest of the Hawaiian Islands are becoming increasingly familiar with. Ms. Springer's life experiences growing up with a limited freshwater supply, drought, invasive species, and encroaching luxury development means she is well-prepared to help the Water Commission rise to the challenges it faces today in properly stewarding and fairly sharing our imperiled freshwater supply.

Unfortunately, a year was wasted in filling this crucial seat because the Green Administration insisted on favoring the interests of developers and diverters over the interests of the streams and the community for which this seat was designated. We urge the Senate to act quickly to confirm Ms. Springer in order to make up for this wasted time and make clear that games, like the ones Green's team played with this vacancy, will not be tolerated.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important nomination. Pō'ai Wai Ola strongly urges this committee to confirm Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management. **Please vote YES to GM 770.**

John A'ana
Vice-President, Pō'ai Wai Ola



Testimony of Nā Alakaʻi o ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi
Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Friday, April 11, 2025 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Senate Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In SUPPORT of GM770 nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and committee members,

We are the alakaʻi of ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi (“the Hui”), an organization of law student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For over 50 years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, especially those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, resource management, and environmental protection. Today we submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM770**.

The Hui is one of the 70 local and national organizations who zealously urged Governor Green to follow the law and appoint a qualified expert in traditional Hawaiian water management to the loa seat. The Governor’s failure to select from the original list of names presented to him, which included Aunt Hannah Springer, for more than a year is egregious and unacceptable, especially given the tragedies suffered in Lahaina. We cannot allow private developer interests to influence policy decision-making and take precedence over the health of Hawaiʻi’s people and resources.

Established in 1987, the purpose of the Water Commission was to effectuate the Water Code and the state’s constitutional obligation under Art. XI, § 1 and § 7 to protect and preserve Hawaiʻi’s water resources for present and future generations. Decades later, our water continues to be exploited for profit. Appointing a true Native Hawaiian water expert to the Water Commission is both pono and legally necessary.

The Governor’s decisions throughout the loa appointment process have created distrust among the community, as he has stretched the language of the Water Code to meet his political goals. He has repeatedly circumvented this legislature and the democratic processes in place to push his own agenda—a pattern of practice that should not be tolerated. **The confirmed appointment of a true loa like Aunt Hannah Springer will help mend the distrust between our community and government.**



Aunty Hannah will help effectively manage our wai so that we can avoid man-made disasters like the Lahaina wildfires in the future. Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources that perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated aloha ʻāina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience in the field, which included her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the *Ka Paʻakai* analysis; and her continued efforts as a founding and leading member of the Kaʻūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. As a kupa of Kaʻūpūlehu and Kūkiʻo, also known as “ke kaha wai ʻole,” a water scarce place, Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

We urge the committee to recommend that the senate **ADVISE and CONSENT** to Hannah Springer’s nomination as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Nā Alakaʻi o ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

Nā Alakaʻi:

B. Oriana McCallum (ʻ25)

Andrea Leialoha Mākuanani (ʻ25)

Kyle K. Moriguchi (ʻ26)

Bronson Gonzales (ʻ26)

Lenei Naipo (ʻ27)

Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong (ʻ27)



Hui Aloha Kiholo

Our mission is to protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kiholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship.

La'i Mitchell Chong

Hui Aloha Kiholo

lai@kiholo.org

808-443-4331

LATE

April 4, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to offer our strong support for the nomination of Hannah Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Hannah Springer brings a wealth of experience and insight that will be invaluable to the Commission. Her deep and enduring ties to the lands where water must be thoughtfully and carefully managed give her a grounded and place-based perspective that is critical in shaping sound and sustainable water policies.

Her approach to service has always been collaborative, respectful, and rooted in community. These qualities, combined with her historical knowledge and dedication to stewardship, make her uniquely qualified to contribute meaningfully to the Commission's work.

We respectfully urge the Committee to give full consideration to her nomination. Hui Aloha Kiholo is honored to offer our testimony in support of someone whose values align so closely with our own mission to care for and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

Me ka ha'aha'a (with humility),

La'i Mitchell Chong

Board President

Hui Aloha Kiholo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:04:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Cruz	Testifying for Malama Makua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for Hannah Springer! The people of Hawaii absolutely need her expertise on cultural matters, particularly those that relate to water and water management.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:11:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Leatherman	Testifying for Democratic Socialists of O'ahu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu and with the Deomcratic Socialists of O’ahu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations. Without knowledgeable care of our waters here on island, the more impending the collapse of our local ecosystem. This situation requires the expertise of someone with ancestral practical knowledge who is able to navigate this huge responsibility.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work. With this, management of these resources will be more effective and sustainable for the health of our water and our community.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo nui,**Mar Leatherman****Member, Democratic Socialists of O’ahu in solidarity with Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu**

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:49:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Healani Sonoda-Pale	Testifying for Ka Lahui Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i strongly supports the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management for the Loea seat.

Ms. Springer is a lifelong kia'i of ka pae 'āina and a recognized leader in the protection of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. As a former Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and long-serving cultural advisor across Hawai'i Island, she brings 'ike kupuna, deep community trust, and decades of on-the-ground experience to this critical position.

Her 'ike honua and unwavering commitment to wai as a public trust resource make her uniquely qualified to uphold the constitutional rights of kānaka 'ōiwi and all Hawai'i residents.

We urge her swift confirmation.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Healani Sonoda-Pale
Ka Lāhui Hawai'i

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:29:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Choon James	Testifying for CountryTalkStory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:43:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob	Testifying for Democratic Socialists of Oahu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Specifications for the Fill-In Blocks**Position Input: Strongly Support****Testifying on behalf of an organization: Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu****Sample Testimony for GM 770:****Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,**

I stand on the testimony of Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu in strong support of GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Water does not belong to corporations, the military, or private developers—it belongs first and foremost to the people. Decisions about wai must center those who live in closest relationship to the land and the culture that has protected it for generations.

Hannah Springer is a trusted practitioner who brings a lifetime of experience and ancestral knowledge to the question of how we care for this most vital resource. Her voice would bring balance, kuleana, and a deeper sense of public trust to the Commission’s work.

In this moment of climate crisis and rising inequality, Hawai‘i needs leadership that is grounded in accountability to our communities and to future generations.

Please confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

**Mahalo nui,
Jacob Hitchcock
Member, Hui Aloha ‘Āina o Honolulu**

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 10:18:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
VicKY HOLT TAKAMINE	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

ALOHA CHAIR INOUYE, VICE CHAIR ELEFANTE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

I SUBMIT STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SELECTON OF LOEA HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER TO SERVE AS A COMMISSIONER ON THE WATER COMMISSION. HANNAH HAS SERVED OUR COMMUNITY FOR YEARS AND HAS THE EXPERIENCE, 'IKE (KNOWLEDGE), AKAMAI (WISDOM) AND KULEANA (RESPONSIBILITY) THAT IS TRULY REFLECTIVE OF THE TERM LOEA (EXPERT IN THE FIELD). I COMMEND GOV GREEN ON THIS SELECTION AND KNOW THAT SHE WILL TRULY FIND CREATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT ARE CULTURALLY GROUNDED AS A WATER COMMISSIONER.

MAHALO NUI LOA FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER AS THE WATER COMMISSION'S LOEA.

ME KE ALOHA

VICKY HOLT TAKAMINE

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:38:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of GM770, the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea.

During my dissertation research at Ka'ūpūlehu, Aunty Hannah was instrumental in helping me understand the deep ancestral relationship between her 'ohana and the upland forests. Her stories and 'ike allowed me to quantify these relationships in my ethnobotanical analysis and ground my academic work in cultural truth.

Her knowledge is not only profound—it is lived, practiced, and shared with integrity. Her leadership in community-based stewardship at Ka'ūpūlehu, and her ability to bring together diverse stakeholders, exemplifies the kind of wisdom and collaboration needed at the Water Commission.

I respectfully urge the Committee to advise and consent to her nomination.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Benton Kealii Pang, PhD

LATE

To: Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

From: Candace Fujikane, UH English professor

Regarding: GM770: Gubernatorial Nominee, Hannah Springer for confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Date: April 10, 2025

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Candace Fujikane and I am testifying in strong support GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am so happy to see that Governor Green has selected Hannah Springer for the loea seat on CWRM. Hannah Springer is a highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. We need Kanaka Maoli practitioners who have an intimate knowledge of water on the commission, and Hannah Springer is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to thrive in the deserts and lava of Ka'ū. I have travelled to Ka'ūpūlehu with my cohort of land stewards, and we learned so much about the careful and loving stewardship of water in that place, where the life giving freshwaters of Kāne bubble up in Kahuwai Bay, indicating spring waters that are released into the ocean. As we are facing lessening rainfall, we need the guidance of 'ike kupuna, ancestral knowledge, to know how to best care for waters in Hawai'i. Hannah Springer comes from a community that has worked in partnerships with many different interests in ways that have been in the best interests of all people in Hawai'i.

Hannah Springer's own personal background illustrates her ability to work with different communities across their differences. She has served in her role as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her

continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee—a model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate consent to Hannah Springer’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo piha!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:28:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in full support of HANNAH SPRINGER

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 2:11:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I'm so pleased to be submitting testimony in support of Hannah Springer's nomination to CWRM. I served for with Springer on the Board of Directors for the Conservation Council for Hawai'i. She brings gravity and grace to all assemblies. She is generous and funny. Most importantly, she knows much about Hawaiian cultural practice, its many histories and politics, and how these are engaged in State processes. I'm sure she will bring all of these to help CWRM advance its mission.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Bianca Isaki

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 11:16:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manawaiakea	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

AFFIDAVIT OF DECLARATION

By: Roslyn Cummings, a Wahine Maoli

Ko Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina — under Exclusive Equity Jurisdiction

In re HB596 HD1 & GM770

TO:

- Senate Committee on Ways & Means
- Senate Committee on Water & Land
- Governor of the State of Hawai‘i
- Office of the Attorney General
- The People of Hawai‘i

FROM:

Roslyn Cummings

Wahine Maoli | Kalaheo Ahupua‘a, Kona Moku, Kaua‘i

Po‘o of Mālama: Cummings ‘Ohana GodTrust

Date: [Insert Date]

I. NOTICE OF STANDING AND LAWFUL AUTHORITY

I, Roslyn Cummings, a Wahine Maoli and lawful ho‘oilina of Ko Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina, submit this affidavit under the protections of:

- The 1840 Kumu Kanawai of the Hawaiian Kingdom
- The Civil Code of 1859 and related statutes
- Keelikolani v. Robinson, 3 Haw. 160 (1869)
- Kaalaea Mill Co. v. Kalaau, 13 Haw. 366 (1901)
- Magna Carta of 1839, and Kanawai Māmalahoe
- The Law of Evidence, Chapter LIII (1850 Penal Code)
- Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (Art. 27, 62)
- And under the Rule of Law and Rule of Evidence, including the unrepealed statutes and decisions of the Hawaiian Kingdom judiciary

I stand under the jurisdiction of exclusive equity and operate as an heir and lawful steward, not a U.S. citizen. This affidavit is not a request for permission but a lawful declaration under continuing Hawaiian Kingdom law and equitable right.

II. REGARDING HB596 HD1 — EMERGENCY POWERS

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB596 HD1, which seeks to rein in unlawful extensions of emergency executive powers. The unchecked use of emergency declarations to override the lawful rights of the people — especially without precise definitions — is a breach of both U.S. and Hawaiian Kingdom constitutional separation of powers.

Legal Foundation:

- The 1840 Constitution of Hawai‘i (Art. 41) affirms the tripartite structure of government and prohibits unilateral consolidation of powers.
- Under the Penal Code of 1850, Chapter LXI, no public official may bypass law or due process “except in cases of actual insurrection or foreign attack.”

This bill aligns with both the Hawaiian Kingdom and international jurisprudence. The attempt to declare complex socio-political issues as emergencies in perpetuity is a usurpation of legislative authority, violating both equity jurisdiction and common law restraint.

Relevant Case Law:

- *Dreier v. Kuaa*, 5 Haw. 119 (1884): affirmed that even the Crown could not act outside the rule of law.
- *In re Boundaries of Pulehunui*, 4 Haw. 239 (1879): the court ruled that the government cannot arbitrarily expand authority without evidentiary procedure and land commission oversight.

Conclusion:

HB596 HD1 affirms the rule of law and restrains administrative overreach. It is the lawful duty of the legislature to preserve due process, public participation, and constitutional balance. I urge its passage without dilution.

III. REGARDING GM770 — APPOINTMENT OF HANNAH K. SPRINGER

I submit this testimony in strong and pono support of GM770, the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea (Native Hawaiian water management expert).

Aunty Hannah's Lineage and Standing:

- She is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — ahupua'a known as kekahawai'ole, land without water — and carries the ancestral 'ike of water scarcity, land balance, and abundance through stewardship.
- Her grounding in mo'okū'auhau, cultural practice, and environmental law make her ideally suited to advise on equitable water allocation, especially in light of climate shifts and over-extraction.

Legal Precedent:

- Waikane v. Poohilo, 6 Haw. 214 (1876): recognized kuleana rights to water cannot be severed from ancestral claims and mo'okū'auhau.
- In re Water Rights of Waiahole Ditch, affirming that the Public Trust Doctrine aligns with traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices of water sharing, not commodification.

Springer's Service:

- Creator of Ka Pa'akai Analysis, used to balance development with cultural rights
- OHA Trustee, Marine Life Advisory Committee founder, and steward of biocultural restoration
- Lawful interpreter of both Western science and 'ike kupuna, essential for upcoming legal decisions on water disputes

Conclusion:

Aunty Hannah Springer is not only a candidate — she is the lawful and most qualified person to fulfill the kuleana of loea. To reject her would be a breach of both cultural integrity and legal standards.

IV. CLOSING DECLARATION UNDER EQUITY AND KULEANA

I declare under oath and under penalty of perjury in Ko Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina that:

- The above is true, correct, and submitted under exclusive equity jurisdiction
- I act as a Wahine Maoli, not as a U.S. person, and I retain all lawful rights under the unrepealed laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom
- I am not subject to administrative color-of-law definitions where they conflict with the rule of law, the Law of Evidence, and my inherent standing as ho‘oilina

Accordingly, I urge the Senate to:

1. PASS HB596 HD1, with its legal integrity and boundaries intact
2. ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, affirming the rightful placement of a cultural and legal expert into the role of loea

Executed this day under lawful authority,

Roslyn Cummings, a Wahine Maoli

Kalaheo, Kona Moku, Kaua‘i

Ko Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:55:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is De Andre Makakoa. I'm a father, business owner, community organizer, and a displaced Lahaina fire survivor. I'm writing in strong support of GM770, to confirm Hannah Kihalani Springer to the loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management. This nomination is long overdue. The loea seat was created for someone deeply rooted in 'ike kupuna and the realities of Native Hawaiian water management. Aunty Hannah is exactly that. Her life has been committed to aloha 'āina — not for headlines or ego, but because she knows what it means to live in dry places and still fight to protect every drop of wai for her community.

She's a cultural practitioner, a former OHA Trustee, and someone who's walked that line between protecting our people and navigating state systems. She helped develop the Ka Pa'akai framework, which many of us rely on today to defend our rights. She's proven herself for decades, while too many others have profited off of silence, inaction, or worse — complicity.

We've seen what happens when the wrong people make decisions about wai. We live the consequences in Lahaina — every day. Appointing Aunty Hannah sets a new tone. It honors process, restores trust, and puts someone in power who doesn't forget who she serves. I fully support her nomination, and I urge this committee to advise and consent on GM770.

Mahalo nui for your time,

De Andre Makakoa

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

ATTN: CHAIR LORRAINE INOUE & VICE-CHAIR BRANDON ELEFANTE

Testimony In Strong Support GM770:

Confirming Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management

April 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of GM770**, Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination to the loea seat on the Water Commission. My name is Kanoelani Steward, a kupa of Lahaina and a Kānaka Maoli scholar who studies historical use of wai in Maui Komohana. In my master's thesis, I outlined accounts from nūpepa that described Maui Komohana as an abundant 'āina momona as well as impacts suffered from the plantation era that continue to affect water use and distribution today.

I have appeared before the Commission for many years to advocate for pono management in Maui Komohana and the restoration of precious wai to our 'āina and streams. Although we are grateful for the progress we have made in this relationship, the Water Commission has time and time again failed Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners in Maui Komohana and across our pae 'āina. We must constantly fight to restore and protect our traditional and customary practices, and, as private companies openly defy the Water Commission's orders, we are also burdened to monitor water use and ensure compliance.

I believe that Aunty Hannah is the best choice for the loea seat. For decades, she has practiced sustainable water management in North Kona, advocated for Kānaka stewardship of wai and other natural resources, and been a steadfast defender of traditional and customary rights. Not only has she dedicated her life to protecting the 'āina, she is also an accomplished scholar and an author of *Kōkua aku, kōkua mai: an indigenous consensus-driven and place-based approach to community-led dry land restoration and stewardship*. Since the 2023 fires, people all across the pae 'āina have learned how traditional practices support a stable and thriving environment. With her tremendous wisdom, knowledge, and experience, I believe that Aunty Hannah is a pono leader and a staunch advocate who is intimately familiar with and will prioritize these practices.

I respectfully ask that you vote YES on GM770.

Mahalo,
Kanoelani Steward

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

ATTN: CHAIR LORRAINE INOUE & VICE-CHAIR BRANDON ELEFANTE

**Testimony Strongly Supporting GM770:
Confirming Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management**

**April 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229**

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Kalama'ehu Takahashi. My 'ohana and I are from Kā'anapali, and I am a kupa of Maui and Lahaina. I am a proud parent raising keiki on this 'āina, and an advocate and supporter of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina. **I am testifying today in strong support of GM770, Auntie Hannah Springer's nomination to the loea seat on the Water Commission.** Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in favor of her appointment.

For over a century, Maui Komohana has been devastated by various colonizing forces. From sugar plantations to private utilities, resorts, and luxury developments, various bad actors have abused and stolen our land and water resources for their own economic benefit. Kalo farmers, kama'āina, and kupa are unable to live as our ancestors have since time immemorial. After many 'ohana and community members lost everything in the Maui fires, private corporations and landowners have doubled down on their exploitative use of water while tourists overlooking a site of mass death and trauma continue to enjoy their vacations.

From years of advocacy and experience, I know that the Water Commission has the power to protect our resources and to work with the community to create a healthy, prosperous future for Maui Komohana's keiki. For the last three years, I have testified myself and have accompanied keiki as they bravely call for accountability from both the Commission and this Legislature.

For Maui Komohana to recover and to thrive, the Water Commission must collaborate with the community and make pono decisions for our families' and our keiki's futures as we continue to fight against exploitative private water purveyors. I believe that Auntie Hannah has the expertise to do what is best for the people of Hawai'i by building relationships and fighting for our keiki's futures. She is a practitioner and scholar with decades of experience in traditional and customary practices, including water resource management in the kaha lands of North Kona. She also has an established track record of serving community and a deep commitment to stewarding 'āina and wai.

I am relieved and grateful that Governor Green finally selected Auntie Hannah from the original shortlist. Please do what is pono and **vote YES on GM770.**

E ola i ka wai!
Kalama'ehu Takahashi

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:58:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamana Beamer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Kamanamaikalani Beamer; I spent eight years of my life carrying the tremendous responsibility and privilege of serving two terms on the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management. As a result of this experience, I understand the duties, challenges, and kuleana of the Commission with an intimacy few can understand. More importantly, this knowledge and experience helps me understand the kind of individual who would successfully carry out the duties of the commission to protect the public trust while making decisions to allocate reasonable and beneficial uses of water across Hawai'i.

Aunty Hannah Springer exemplifies the notion of "Ke Kahuwai Pono," the motto of the Hawaii State Commission of Water Resource Management (CWRM). The Commission acts as a trustee and quasi-judicial body over all of Hawai'i's water resources, and I am certain that Aunty Hannah would make an exemplary trustee. She has been a dedicated steward who has exemplified the qualities of 'ōpū ali'i and servant leadership in Hawai'i island communities and across our Pae 'Āina her entire life. She is a loea, a true master and practitioner of ancestral knowledge systems for wai and in her 'āina of Kekahawaiole. Her deep knowledge of the public trust doctrine, traditional and customary rights, water resource management, and terrestrial and marine ecosystems will be a tremendous asset to CWRM. Her significant experience in the complexities of water resource management has been learned through a lifetime of experience living in and working with the communities of Kona and Kohala in her home of Kukuiohiwai.

She will be an excellent commissioner, and I ask for your unanimous approval of her confirmation.

Ola i ka wai,

Kamanamaikalani Beamer, PhD

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 1:52:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

She is a perfect candidate for this position. She has the cultural knowledge and experience.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:58:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Cristobal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Emily Cristobal and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Emily Cristobal

GM-770

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:32:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Aunty Hannah Springer for the loea seat on CWRM. Please confirm Hannah Springer.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 2:18:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

HANNAH SPRINGER, is more than qualified to be our next pono LOEA. Please support GM770. Mahalo for your time on this sensitive matter.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Lum-Kawaihoa Marquez

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 10:52:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Hannah Springer as the loea for CWRM.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 2:00:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Biechler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the nomination for Hannah Springer to the CWRM and hope that the Senate will too.

With Aloha,

Mike Biechler

Sen. District 23

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 5:28:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Nakata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Nicole Nakata and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Auntie Hannah as the loa seat member of Hawai'i's Water Commission. Auntie Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loa position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai'i's water future. Auntie Hannah's extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Auntie Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loa to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Nicole

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 5:42:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Vorm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Elena and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Elena Vorm

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 5:53:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cora Fernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Cora Fernandez and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Cora Fernandez

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 5:58:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genevieve Krause	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Genevieve Krause and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Genevieve Krause

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:10:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Whitney and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loa seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loa position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Whitney Blandford

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:23:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colby Sameshima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Testimony in support of GM770

Confirming Hannah Kihalani Springer

to the Commission on Water Resource Management

April 11, 2025 1:00PM Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Colby Sameshima and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

There is no other responsible option than to confirm Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai'i's Water Commission. It was ridiculous and absurd that this didn't happen in the first place.

The distrust in government won't dwindle when the community continues to get ignored. Do not be another politician who refuses to listen to the people and uphold powerful interests that do not serve the community.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment,

and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Colby

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:34:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
austin hinely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

She is amazing and represents the community well!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:40:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Kristen and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Auntie Hannah as the loa seat member of Hawai'i's Water Commission. Auntie Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loa position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai'i's water future. Auntie Hannah's extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Auntie Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loa to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Kristen Young
Honolulu, HI 96813

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:44:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Auriemma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Maya Kennedy Auriemma and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Auntie Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Auntie Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future.

Auntie

Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Auntie Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives. Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Maya Kennedy Auriemma

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:48:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
India	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is India Buchanan and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

India Buchanan

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 6:59:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Hopkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Kylie Hopkins and I **SUPPORT GM770**, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Auntie Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Auntie Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Auntie Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Auntie Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Please **SUPPORT GM770**.

Ola i ka wai,
Kylie Hopkins

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 7:01:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Samantha Nelson and I **SUPPORT GM770**, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Auntie Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Auntie Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Auntie Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Auntie Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Please **SUPPORT GM770**.

Ola i ka wai,

Samantha Nelson

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 7:02:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Lance Kuroda-McCormick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Koa Kuroda-McCormick and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future. Aunty Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunty Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Koa Kuroda-McCormick

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 7:05:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tepua Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Tepua Ho and I SUPPORT GM770, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Auntie Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Auntie Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai‘i’s water future.

Auntie

Hannah’s extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Auntie Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives. Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai‘i’s Water Commission. Please SUPPORT GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Tepua Ho

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 6:47:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Auntie Hannah is a strong advocate for water rights, sovereignty, and sustainability. She is the best for the job a kana'aina of the kaha lands of Ka'upulehu auntie will do the very best for all of Hawaii. Her lifetime commitment to Hawaii and to our lahui speaks through her years of work and serving. I support her nomination and I encourage the Senate to give a 100% vote in favor of Auntie Hannah

mahalo,

Kaimi Kaupiko

Ohana Milolii

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 5:51:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Datta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Hannah Springer.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 6:16:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Ku'u lei Keakealani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I would like to express my full support of makua Hannah Kihalani Springer's confirmation to serve as a water commissioner. She and I share the ancestral homeland of Ka'ulupūlehu, North Kona and this familiar relationship we have in common has solidified our relationship as stewards of this beloved cultural landscape. Makua Kihalani has been one of several revered teachers that I am privileged to say that I have gained wisdom and much insight from. Your consideration of makua Kihalani shows your confidence in her skills as well as her valuable contribution to this commission. I ask your favor in joining many of us who stand shoulder to shoulder in support of makua Kihalani. Being kupa'ai of the dry and arid lands of Kekaha North Kona, we have been raised with a sensibility and particular care of our wai as she and I were raised on catchment water systems. Water usage and consumption was one that truly exemplified need, being totally dependant on rainfall created a sense of value that most don't and can't realize. This careful tending to our water resource has raised us to be the responsible stewards we are. I ask again, that you please, confirm makua Kihalani's service not just on the water commission, but to the greater community and particularly to our native Hawaiian communities. Mahalo for making the right decision and one that will be noted for generations to come, tomorrow's decision will most certainly have a lasting effect, far beyond our time.

Me ka mahalo~ R. Ku'u lei Keakealani

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 6:52:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hina Kneubuhl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

The governor already stalled for ages and tried to maipulte the process of selecting a nominee for the second loea seat. I urge that she be confirmed without issue.

Mahalo,

Hina

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 10:09:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am happy to support Gov. Green for once. His decision to finally follow the law and select Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea is outstanding. For once he did the right thing and I urge the Committee to recommend that the Senate ADVISE and CONSENT to Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Thank you.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 8:11:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha, my name is Keala Fung and I testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your time,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 8:29:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I'm testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands'

rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo
Mō'ili'ili, HI 96826
Sierra Club of Hawai'i Executive Committee Member
Board Member, Hawai'i Workers Center
Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 12:29:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah is clearly more than qualified for this role and has the support of the local community. Her nomination will help restore trust in the management of the precious water.

Mahalo,

Danielle Surface

96818

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 12:53:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT and humbly ask that you also SUPPORT GM770.

HANNAH SPRINGER is an Excellent candidate for the Water Resource Management Committee.

Mahalo,

Debra M Javar

So. Kona, Hawai'i

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 1:18:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hannah Kihalani Springer is an ideal candidate.
Mahalo,

Bill & Bobbie Best, Wailuku

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 1:33:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Baskerville	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the

highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 3:19:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keri Zacher and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Keri Zacher

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 3:23:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Diane Ware and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Volcano 96785

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 4:26:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Madison Owens and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Madison Owens

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 6:14:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana-Honua Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nana-Honua Manuel and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

Nana-Honua Manuel

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 7:46:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Palakiko and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the

highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

Lauren Palakiko

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 7:49:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlie Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charlie Palakiko and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the

highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

Charlie Palakiko

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 9:23:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is William Reese Liggett and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
William Reese Liggett

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 10:41:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support the nomination of Hannah Springer. She is well respected by people whom I in turn respect.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 10:55:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Gambino and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s Ioea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Emily Gambino

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 3:21:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jodi Rodar and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jodi Rodar

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 5:24:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Her experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 10:30:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kardeen Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am Kardeen Wong, and I submit this testimony in ****STRONG SUPPORT**** of Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert (GM770).

Aunty Hannah is an accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and aloha 'āina whose extensive experience includes serving as an OHA Trustee, crafting the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis, and working on various nonprofit boards like the Conservation Council for Hawai'i. As a founding member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, she exemplifies collaborative stewardship of 'āina, wai, and kai. Her ability to integrate Native Hawaiian and Western perspectives will be critical to the Water Commission's nuanced decisions in the coming years.

As a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, Aunty Hannah is grounded in ancestral 'ike, including wisdom regarding water management in areas of variable rainfall. This perspective will be invaluable as climate destabilization poses new challenges for our islands' precious resources.

I strongly urge the Committee to recommend that the Senate ****ADVISE AND CONSENT**** to her nomination.

Mahalo,

Kardeen Wong

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 10:36:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kano Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kano Watanabe and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Kano Watanabe

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 1:09:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a long time Hawaii resident, public school educator, dedicated citizen and one of your constituents.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunty Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai'i's Water Commission. Aunty Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community. Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity.

Mahalo for your time, hard work and consideration of my position on this matter.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 8:02:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harriet Burkholder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.	
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GM-770

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 8:12:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to follow the law and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 8:37:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Leonberger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Leonberger and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Laura Leonberger

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 11:39:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Kaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Auntie Hannah is perfect for this position. I support her 110%!!!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 7:19:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Testifying in strong support of this long overdue nomination.

Dylan Ramos, 96816

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 6:58:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannine Rossa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui loa, thank you very much, for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert (GM770).

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner and community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA). She is a founder and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. I was fortunate enough to learn from her and others in Ka'ūpūlehu about 10 years ago, during a collaborative effort to create community-driven responses to climate change. Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in that water-limited area. Aunty Hannah brought wisdom, inclusiveness, and thoughtfulness to our discussions. She brought her years of experience working collaboratively to build strong organizations that create lasting, restorative change. She has a willingness to roll up her sleeves and get it done.

I believe that Aunty Hannah will work hard to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives to the discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

I respectfully and strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Me ke ha'aha'a,

Jeannine Rossa

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 8:38:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha 'Āina Momona,
Pamela Lota Fujii

Testimony instructions

1. Register for a [capitol website account](#) if you haven't yet (you'll need to confirm your registration by responding to an automated email)
2. Sign in to capitol.hawaii.gov with your registration information and click the "Submit Testimony" button.
3. Enter "GM770" where it says "Enter Bill or Measure."
4. Input your information and your written testimony, select your testimony option(s)—in-person + written, remotely + written, written only. Please consider providing verbal testimony (in-person or remotely) if you are able!
 - a. Note: Virtual testimony option may be disabled 24 hours before the hearing.
5. If you are testifying via Zoom, be sure to [review these instructions](#) (page 4)

***NOTE:** KUA will be holding our annual Hui Mālama Loko I'a gathering in Kona during the hearing, but we are planning to reserve some time for those that want to testify live on Zoom on Friday. Senator Inouye's office told us that to be able to testify live on Zoom, you will need to also submit your own written testimony. **So anyone coming to our gathering next week that also wants to testify live, just know that we gotchu!!** We will have a hotspot set up, our own laptop streaming the hearing, & you can use your phone or other device to testify live too if you like.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 9:55:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SCOTT ALAN KAIMI GARLOUGH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the

highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo no,

Scott Garlough

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 12:09:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to express my strong support for Auntie Hannah Spring for CWRM!

She is a great, highly respected choice that brings extensive cultural and academic knowledge.

**Testimony in Support of GM 770 — Nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer
To the Commission on Water Resource Management**

April 7, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taffi Wise, and I submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

As someone who has worked alongside Hannah in the context of board governance and public policy, I can attest to the exceptional depth of her experience and the clarity of her vision. Her contributions across the sectors of conservation, education, and resource management are both substantive and enduring.

Hannah brings to this nomination more than 30 years of leadership in natural resource policy. Her tenure on entities such as the County of Hawai'i Planning Commission, the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission, and the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs demonstrates her ability to navigate complex regulatory and public processes while ensuring community voices are heard. Her input consistently reflects a balanced, data-informed approach grounded in Indigenous knowledge and best practices in environmental governance.

From an educational perspective, Hannah has helped shape place-based learning through her role with the Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana and other organizations focused on 'āina-based education. She understands the essential link between stewardship and education, and how intergenerational learning fosters long-term sustainability of Hawai'i's water resources.

Conservation, too, is not theoretical for Hannah. It is lived practice. Her engagement with efforts such as the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, Pu'uwa'awa'a Community-Based Subsistence Forestry, and The Nature Conservancy reflects a hands-on, community-first model of conservation that the Commission would be fortunate to draw upon.

In short, Hannah Kihalani Springer is not only qualified—she represents the kind of integrated, ethical, and forward-looking leadership that is needed at this critical time for Hawai'i's water systems. I urge her confirmation without reservation.

Me ka ha'aha'a
Taffi Wise, PhD

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 4:24:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Benioni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of GM 770 – Nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer

To the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha e Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

It is with deep respect and unwavering support that I submit testimony on behalf of **Hannah Kihalani Springer**, whose nomination to the **Commission on Water Resource Management** is not only appropriate but necessary.

For over three decades, Hannah has been a pillar of cultural and environmental leadership in Hawai‘i. She has held long-standing roles as a cultural advisor and educational consultant for **Kūki‘o Development, Hualālai Resort, and the Kūki‘o Homeowners’ Association** — positions that demand both credibility and care. Her presence in those roles has ensured that development in West Hawai‘i has included cultural intelligence, environmental sensitivity, and respect for place.

Equally significant is her tenure on the **Kahu Kū Mauna** council, where she helped guide the management of Mauna Kea, one of the most culturally and environmentally significant places in the world. Her voice in that space has always been one of reason, dignity, and a deep connection to the ‘ike of her ancestors. Since **1995**, Hannah has also been a member of the **Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee**, advocating tirelessly for the health of coastal ecosystems and the practices that sustain them.

What sets Hannah apart is not just her record but the way she leads. She brings with her a quiet strength, a grace that uplifts others, and a humility that invites trust. In community settings, she is both a listener and a teacher. In formal governance spaces, she offers a perspective that grounds policy in values. And in all she does, she exemplifies what it means to be in true service to land, water, and people.

For the Commission to benefit from a leader like Hannah Kihalani Springer is to gain more than a qualified appointee. It is to bring into that space a steward of place, a voice of aloha ‘āina, and a leader who understands that the future of water in Hawai‘i is inextricably tied to culture, community, and kuleana.

I urge you to confirm her nomination with full confidence.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Katie Benioni

Kanu o ka ‘Āina Learning ‘Ohana, Chief Operating Officer

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 12:46:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Izzy Perchard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Izzy Perchard and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to adhere to the law, and choose a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. Through this, he has chosen an extremely qualified candidate to serve on the Commission.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. To see her work as a student planning to study environmental science is awe inspiring. Her commitment to her community is applaudable.

Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. Her ability to mindfully integrate Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization

continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

Izzy Perchard

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 12:52:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Ms. Springer will bring strong experience & understanding of water resource management to the commission.

C. Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

April 7, 2025

From:

Rebecca Most

PO Box 190541, Hawi, Hawaii 96719

rebeccamost@gmail.com

To:

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Re:

Testimony in Support of GM770

Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management of Gubernatorial Nominee Hannah Kihalani Springer

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Water Commission's in the "loea" seat, as reflected in GM770.

Ms. Springer is a highly qualified, well-respected community leader, and the epitome of a *kahuwai* (guardian of the waters). Ms. Springer embodies the spirit of why the loea seat was created, to prioritize the needs of all that depend on water, and will bring a balanced perspective that integrates both the ecological needs with the human needs, inclusive of Native Hawaiian cultural practices. She will bring a depth of civic experience, a conscientious approach to deliberation, and thoughtful decision-making that prioritizes the sustainable use of water across the State.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Springer for over 15 years, and her wisdom and breadth of experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o (North Kona, Hawai'i Island). These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions from a Native Hawaiian perspective will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

As a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, in a region known as *kekawai'ole o nā Kona* (the waterless plains of Kona), she has direct lived experience related to how to manage our most precious resource, water. She has a proven track record of finding equitable solutions without sacrificing the integrity of the resource. With decades of experience working collaboratively across stakeholder groups (from developers, landowners, researchers, Native Hawaiian non-profit organizations, natural resource managers, government agencies, and community members), she is highly respected by all that have had the pleasure of working with her.

I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,



Rebecca Most

Kapa'au, North Kohala, Hawai'i Island

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 3:11:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Kawehi Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It is with deep aloha and firm conviction that I offer my strongest support for the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea Seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Hannah has devoted her life to the stewardship of Hawai‘i’s natural resources, with particular care for the protection and perpetuation of Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices related to wai. Her commitment to aloha ‘āina is evident in both word and action, spanning more than four decades of advocacy, leadership, and service to her community and lāhui.

Her extensive experience includes serving as a Trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, contributing to the foundational Ka Pa‘akai analysis that informs cultural impact assessments today, and her continued leadership as a founding member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. These roles reflect not only her deep understanding of cultural and ecological systems but also her ability to navigate complex regulatory and political landscapes with grace and integrity.

As a kupa of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o—lands often referred to as *ke kaha wai ‘ole o nā Kona*—Hannah brings an invaluable perspective shaped by generations of intimate connection to place. Her insight into the realities of water scarcity and resource management in one of the driest regions of Hawai‘i Island uniquely qualifies her to address the pressing water issues facing our islands today.

Hannah Springer is a trusted voice, a lifelong learner, and a leader whose wisdom is guided by ‘ike kūpuna and grounded in practice. Her presence on the Water Commission would not only fulfill the intention of the Loea Seat—to bring cultural expertise into decision-making—but would also reaffirm the value of ‘ike Hawai‘i in safeguarding our collective future.

I urge you to support her nomination with the understanding that her contributions will strengthen the Commission and bring immeasurable benefit to Hawai‘i’s people and natural systems.

I thank you for your consideration of this most important position.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Ms. Rebecca "Kawehi" Inaba

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 3:14:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Buchanan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of GM770, the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Water Commission.

**In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the
Commission on Water Resource Management**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano, and I am from Wai'anae, O'ahu. My 'ohana resides in Ho'olehua Homestead so I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination**, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano

Co-Founder of Kingdom Pathways

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 3:54:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the

highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Clemens Mayer

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 3:59:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darienne Dey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the****Commission on Water Resource Management****Friday April 11, 2025 at 1PM****Conference Room 229**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Darienne Dey and I am from Makiki. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries, and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate

destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination**, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Darienne Dey

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 5:20:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert,

She is immensely qualified to serve in this position, bringing with her many years of dedication and leadership in the community. Hannah Springer's wisdom and experience will be invaluable addition to the Water Commission's work.

I urge the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Hannah Springer's nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs

4545-A Sierra Drive

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

April 11, 2025

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair & Members of the Senate Committee on Water & Land

Re: **GM 770 - Letter of Support for the Confirmation of Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resources Management (CWRM)**

I wish to express my wholehearted support for the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management. I have known Hannah for many years and based on my past service on CWRM, I can confidently conclude that her extensive experience, impressive knowledge and unwavering dedication to the preservation and sustainable management of Hawai'i's water resources make her an outstanding candidate for this Commission.

The Candidate must meet three criteria.

First, Hawai'i's Water Code requires that all members have **"substantial experience in the area of water resource management."** Relevant background includes commercial agriculture, environmental science, Hawaiian cultural practices, land use development and natural resource management.

Second, the seat for which Hannah Springer has been nominated is reserved for a loea...an individual with **"substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage..."**. The knowledge of the loea ensures informed decision-making by CWRM in fulfilling its duty to recognize traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights.

Third, commissioners must be **able to integrate their eclectic backgrounds and act as a unified body**. History provides ample evidence of how critical it is to seat the Commission with members who not only possess pertinent skills and a commitment to implement Hawai'i's Water Code, but also the will to work in a collaborative style. When Commissioners perceive that their purpose is to tilt outcomes toward a single interest group, CWRM struggles and vital issues become mired in a contentious, divisive state. On the other hand, when Commissioners meld their perspectives to render holistically balanced rulings, CWRM has shown an ability to resolve long-languishing disputes and fulfill its fiduciary duties.

Hannah Kihalani Springer exceeds these criteria.

Hannah Kihalani Springer has demonstrated through her lifelong dedication to the stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources that **she has both the knowledge and the temperament to meet these expectations**. Her background in environmental science and her years of active involvement in community-based water management initiatives have equipped her with a unique understanding of the complexities and challenges of managing ground and surface water resources. This expertise is crucial in articulating and implementing policies that ensure the equitable distribution and sustainable use of water across the state.

Hannah's multi-generational connection to the land and the people of Hawai'i, as well as her studies of our history imbue her work with the **deep cultural insights we expect of a loea**. She understands the intrinsic value of water to Hawai'i's native ecosystems and the cultural heritage of our people, as well as the importance of permitting and regulating the resources sustainable use to support all aspects of life. Her balanced approach is consistent with the principles of Hawai'i's Water Code.

Throughout her career, Hannah has shown **exceptional leadership and a collaborative spirit**. She has worked closely with diverse groups, including local communities, governmental agencies, and environmental organizations, to advocate for policies that protect and enhance our water resources. Her ability to bridge gaps and foster cooperative efforts among stakeholders will be an invaluable asset to the Commission.

CWRM would benefit from Hannah Kihalani Springer's confirmation.

Hannah Kihalani Springer's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship, her proven track record of effective leadership, and her profound understanding of Hawai'i's water resource challenges make her an **exemplary nominee for the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management**. I have no doubt that her contributions to CWRM will be invaluable and will significantly advance the responsible management of our precious water resources.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to confirm Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination. Her appointment will undoubtedly benefit the sustainability and health of Hawai'i's water resources for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Neil J. Kaho'okele".

Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs

**Testimony to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the
Commission on Water Resource Management
Friday April 11, 2025 at 1PM
Conference Room 229**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Janice Herrick and I am from Paukūkalo Hawaiian Homes on Maui. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries, and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination**, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Janice Herrick

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 6:50:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We, Nolan & Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, DHHL beneficiaries since 1978 STRONGLY SUPPORT

770 GM Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 7:08:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support as a member of the Kona Hawaiian Civic club. She has been a strong advocate for our aina, wai, and lahui

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 10:20:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Meredith Buck and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Meredith Buck

**Testimony to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to
the
Commission on Water Resource Management
Friday April 11, 2025 at 1PM
Conference Room 229**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is JoRina Hepburn and I am from Pi'ilani Mai Ke Kai Subdivision in Anahola, Kauai. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries, and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid

kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination**, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!
JoRina Hepburn

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:22:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, plus ohana and I am from Hamoa Village, Hana, Maui. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries, and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

Earle K. Medeiros, Sr.

Earle K. Medeiros, Jr.

Megan T.U. Medeiros

John-Bull P. English

Ashley A. English

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 7:08:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carolyn wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the appointment of Hannah Springer to the Commission of Water Resources Management as the Loea. I believe she understands and embodies the values and perspectives of kanaka maoli and will contribute to the commission fulfillment of kuleana with wisdom, knowledge, respect and aloha. Thank you for supporting her appointment.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 8:26:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pililuaikekaiohilo Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eia nō ku‘u wahi leo kāko‘o iā Hannah Springer no ke kuleana o ka loea ma ke Commision on Water Resource Management.

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Hannah Springer being named to the Commision on Water Resource Management.

Testimony for GM770

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Testimony in support of GM770
Confirming
Hannah Kihalani Springer
to the Commission on Water Resource Management

April 11, 2025 1:00PM Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Benjamin Newton and I **SUPPORT GM770**, the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I strongly support the confirmation of Aunt Hannah as the loea seat member of Hawai'i's Water Commission. Aunt Hannah brings exceptional qualifications as an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices and, through her extensive work on the ground, she has earned profound respect within the practitioner community.

The loea position—the only seat specifically designated by law for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water management practices—is vital for Hawai'i's water future. Aunt Hannah's extensive experience serving on cultural advisory groups, coupled with her work alongside hydrologists, legal experts, and cultural practitioners, demonstrates the exact expertise this position requires. Notably, Aunt Hannah played a pivotal role in establishing a framework to assess agency action, creating transparency and accountability in the decisionmaking process.

Water remains our most precious resource and must be managed as a public trust, not a commodity. Decisions regarding its use must benefit all people, protect our environment, and safeguard our natural and cultural resources for future generations. While this critical appointment remained vacant for over a year, I commend Governor Green for finally responding to community advocacy by nominating a candidate who is both eminently qualified and highly respected among those who perpetuate traditional Native Hawaiian practices in their daily lives.

Now that Governor Green has made a proper nomination, the Senate must fulfill its kuleana to support the confirmation of a true loea to Hawai'i's Water Commission. Please **SUPPORT GM770**.

Ola i ka wai,
Benjamin Newton

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:10:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Piotrowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Auntie Hannah, she is more than qualified to hold this critically important position and will be an excellent steward of our most precious resource!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:11:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Biggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hannah Springer's knowledge, background, and service to the culture and community, make her a great candidate to serve as the Water Commission's loca. Please support her nomination.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:20:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the committee,

My name is Will Caron and I live in Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu. I am testifying in strong support of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve on the Water Commission as its loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. I am grateful to Governor Green for this selection. This is the kind of accomplished cultural practitioner whose expertise and experience—and whose proven dedication to aloha ‘āina—will be invaluable to the commission, fulfilling the requirements of the loea position with flying colors. Please support GM770. Mahalo.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:26:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bo Breda and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Bo Breda

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:27:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Wilson and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:35:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jen ballou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jen Ballou and I am writing in **strong support** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's *loea*, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770. Aunty Hannah is a respected cultural practitioner and longtime community leader with deep ancestral ties to Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. Her decades of experience in cultural and environmental stewardship, along with her thoughtful and collaborative approach to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources, make her exceptionally well-qualified for this important role. I urge the Committee to advise and consent to her nomination.

Mahalo,
Jen Ballou

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:58:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moses Palakiko Bergau JR.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice chair Elefante and members of the Committee.

My name is Moses Palakiko Bergau Jr. from Moku/Region O Ko'olau ahupua'a O' Nahiku Homestead O Maui Hikina. I am writting in strong support of GM770 and a confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the water commission's designated Loea or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

Aunty Hannah's dedication with her attributes has proven herself to be qualified as a Loea, particularly with respect to the precious nature of Wai.

Ola i ka wai

Moses Palakiko Bergau Jr.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:04:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miriam-Ashley Keo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Inouye, Elefante, and esteemed members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my unwavering and enthusiastic support for the confirmation of ‘Anakē Hannah Springer as loea to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Her appointment is not merely appropriate, but essential for the responsible and equitable stewardship of Hawai‘i’s water resources.

‘Anakē Hannah Springer embodies the very essence of the loea position, as mandated by law. Her deep understanding of traditional Native Hawaiian water management principles, coupled with her extensive practical experience, makes her uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity. Her knowledge is not academic alone; it is rooted in lived experience and a profound respect for the cultural significance of wai (water).

The loea seat was established to ensure that the Commission’s decisions are informed by the wisdom and perspectives of the Native Hawaiian community. ‘Anakē Hannah Springer’s presence will guarantee that traditional practices, crucial for the sustainability of our islands, are not only considered but integrated into the Commission’s policies. She is a respected leader within the community, trusted to advocate for the preservation of our cultural heritage and the protection of our natural resources.

Her ability to bridge the gap between contemporary water management practices and traditional knowledge is invaluable. In a time when Hawai‘i faces increasing challenges related to water scarcity and environmental sustainability, ‘Anakē Hannah Springer’s expertise is more critical than ever.

I urge the Committee to recognize the significance of her appointment and to confirm her without hesitation. Her service will be a profound asset to the Commission and to the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for your time and thoughtful consideration.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:15:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobby Camara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **Strong Support** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have known Ms Springer personally and professionally for nearly 50 years. She has repeatedly and consistently demonstrated, with unimpeachable integrity, her commitment to advance aloha ‘āina in all its aspects. Her aloha for ‘āina is centered in Ka‘ūpūlehu and neighboring Kūki‘o and Manini‘ōwali on Hawai‘i. These ahupua‘a are part of Kekahawai‘ole, the waterless kaha lands of Kona ‘Ākau (North Kona). Her resume will inform you about her commitments to various communities, with the common thread being protection and perpetuation of resources, both natural and cultural, for the peoples of Hawai‘i.

Ms Springer is diligent and thoughtful when deliberating, and decisions are made based on care full researches, and understandings of all aspects of issues. She is well-versed in many aspects of our natural and cultural histories, including geology, botany, anthropology, archeology, marine biology, agriculture, and especially the need for conservation of fresh water. She and her family are extremely cognizant of water resources, having lived on catchment in a dry land for decades. Practices of conservation of water resources come naturally to her, as well as to family and friends. Fresh water is frugally used, reused, and recycled, and the careful, regular monitoring of rainfall is a standard, normal practice in her household.

I can think of no better, more qualified person to serve on the Commission, and trust that you will see fit to Confirm Ms Springer.

Mahalo piha for your consideration.

Bobby Camara

Kea‘au, Hawai‘i

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:15:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr Joan Heartfield and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

Joan Heartfield, PhD

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Judith Wells and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Judith Wells

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:07:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilia Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lilia and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I recently learned about the CWRM process in class, as I am working towards my Master's in Environmental Management. Collectively, our class admires Aunty Hannah and believes she is the best fit for this position - having her in this position would be a great step for Wai moving forward.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences, as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives, will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Aloha 'āina,

Lilia

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:09:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Taylor-Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Malia Taylor-Wolfe and I am a third year law student at the UH Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate

ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Malia Taylor-Wolfe

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:26:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loca, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo nui loa.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:39:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rob Culbertson, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:40:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmela Resuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and the nomination of Aunty Hannah Springer.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:45:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Georgia Hoopes and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:48:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Kawehilani Kalaau Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support the appointment of Native Hawaiian Hannah Springer to the Commission of Water Resource Management. It would be in the best interest of all Hawai'i residents to confirm her position. Her knowledge, integrity, communication skills and her connection to the aina will be extremely valuable to our community and generations to come.

Mahalo,

Kawehi Kala'au Apo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:49:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Park	Testifying for UH Richardson	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

John Park

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:53:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hawley	Testifying for William S. Richardson School of Law	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:55:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Briggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:00:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Parker and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Parker

Kapaa, HI

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:12:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natashia Gomera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor’s decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kuki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid “kaha lands.” The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua‘a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:14:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:18:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hannah's qualifications are exceptional and her appointment as Water Commission Loea will be a perfect match.

E Ola I Ka Wai

Mahalo for you time

Mary Drayer

557 Imi Dr,Wailuku, HI 96793

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:27:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Menchetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Menchetti and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J Menchetti

Kapa'au, HI

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:39:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kea Kala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:43:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph J Moulton- Condiotti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Dana Newman

Waianae Community Member

808-312-9694

Hakalina23@gmail.com

Date: April 10, 2025

To:

Commission on Water Resource Management
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Subject: Letter of Support for Hannah Kihalani Springer's Appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

I write to express my wholehearted and unwavering support for the appointment of **Hannah Kihalani Springer** to the Commission on Water Resource Management. As a respected kupuna, community leader, and lifelong steward of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, Ms. Springer embodies the highest standards of leadership, 'ike kūpuna, and public service required for this kuleana.

Born and raised in Ka'ūpūlehu, Hawai'i Island, Ms. Springer comes from a generational lineage of kia'i 'āina and kia'i wai. Her lived experience and ancestral knowledge of place provide her with the kind of expertise that cannot be taught in textbooks or universities. She has consistently applied this 'ike through her leadership on the **Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee**, where she co-led the successful "**Try Wait**" initiative, as well as her service on the **Office of Hawaiian Affairs, County Planning Commission**, and as **Chair of the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests**.

In addition, Ms. Springer has co-authored academic works on Indigenous resource management and has actively guided community-based restoration efforts, showing her ability to bridge science, policy, and traditional ecological knowledge. Her voice is rooted in aloha 'āina, and she carries her kuleana to water with humility, deep understanding, and clarity of vision.

As a Commissioner, she fulfills the critical **Loea** position reserved for someone with "substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and practices," per HRS §174C-7. Her insights are essential to ensuring decisions made by the Commission uphold the **Public Trust Doctrine**, prioritize **traditional and customary rights**, and are guided by the values of mālama, pono, and pilina.

In this time of increasing pressure on Hawai'i's finite water resources, it is imperative that leaders like Ms. Springer help guide our state through decisions that affect not just water, but the future of our people, ecosystems, and generational responsibilities.

I urge you to confirm her appointment and support her continued service to Hawai'i nei.

Me ke aloha a me ka ha'aha'a,

Dana Newman

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 12:49:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Lonborg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of Hannah Springer's confirmation to the water comission. Thank you.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:00:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is keila Paahana and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:10:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Julie Marrack and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Marrack, Kamuela

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:16:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Nakaielua Ribao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to provide testimony to **support GM770** with the confirmation of appointing **Hannah Kihalani Springer** to the Loea seat on the Hawaii Water Commission. The seat is reserved for a kānaka maoli practitioner with substantial experience and expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage. Hannah's commitment to aloha ‘āina, stewardship, preserving and honoring kūpuna ‘ike and her kuleana to the community is more than enough to appoint her to this prestigious and necessary position.

The commissions motto is Ke Kahuwai Pono and Hannah is someone who truly understands that for being a kia'i of 'āina.

Protect our most vital resource with the appointing of Hannah.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Amanda Nakaielua Ribao

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:24:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Altemus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara Altemus and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Barbara Altemus

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:30:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharde Freitas, I am a Hilo resident, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Ola i ka wai,

Sharde Freitas

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony in strong support for GM 770 and the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management.

As a member of Hui Aloha 'Āina o Honolulu, an organization committed to Hawai'i's liberation from corporate control and military destruction, we believe that water governance is the defining issue of our time. From the increasing pressures of climate change to the urgent need to restore sustainable food systems, to our ability to simply have clean water to drink, the decisions we make today about wai will determine whether Hawai'i has a livable, just future for the majority of its people, especially Native Hawaiian and working-class families.

Hannah Springer is a powerful choice to help guide these decisions. As a respected kia'i, farmer, and cultural practitioner, she brings a lived and learned understanding of traditional water governance systems—systems that were codified into law by our ali'i in the Hawaiian Kingdom. The stakes are higher than ever and that same spirit must guide our modern institutions, and Ms. Springer's voice is critical to that effort.

Her presence on the Commission would strengthen its ability to make decisions grounded in cultural integrity, community accountability, and ecological balance. I believe her contributions will help forge a strong collective within the Commission—one capable of managing this most precious resource not just for today, but for generations to come.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Hannah Springer to the Loea seat.

Mahalo,

Lauren Taijeron

Dwight Y. Takamine
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
April 9, 2025

(Testimony – Written Only)

Senator Lorraine Inouye
State Capitol Room 210
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Confirmation of Hannah Springer to the Commission of Water
Resource Management for a term to expire 6/30/2028. (GM 770)**

Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on
Water and Land,

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in strong support, on the
confirmation of Hannah Springer, to sit as a member of the State Water
Commission. I have gotten to know Hannah during the past several years, as
we both served on the Kanu O Ka Aina (a charter school located in Waimea on
the Island of Hawaii) Board of Directors. During this time, I have observed and
learned of Hannah's deep commitment to traditional Hawaiian values. She
not only strongly believes in those special values, but she has also lived those
values throughout her life.

She has demonstrated this through her active participation in many, many
community as well as educational organizations, that contribute to the well-
being of the public and to the future of our State. The extensive listing of these
organizations and the various roles that she plays, reflects her leadership
style of actively engaging in the work, and learning important lessons in the
process.

I have seen her leadership skills up close, as she has demonstrated not only her ability to lead, but to also maintain a clear perspective as a problem solver. While she freely shares her strong beliefs, she is also an effective facilitator, who can bring people together.

I have witnessed her ability to build consensus time and time again, while she has served as the Chairperson for the Kanu O Ka Aina Board of Directors. While Hannah maintains strong principles, she is also a good listener and is sensitive and respectful of different points of view. I believe this skill set will aide her in being an effective member of the Water Commission.

Hannah is a strong conservationist. I sincerely believe that she will do her very best to preserve and protect the water resources in Hawaii. At the same time her facilitative skills will allow her to help move discussions forward, especially when discussions may begin to polarize.

For all the foregoing reasons, I am honored to support Hannah Springer, and I hope the Committee Members will positively support her confirmation. Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 1:59:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is kimdonghyeon, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

kimdonghyeon

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 3:04:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jordan and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jordan, Honolulu 96817

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 4:01:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 4:50:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxane Keliikipikaneokolohaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Hannah Springer is well respected within and beyond the Hawaiian community. She is a highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her service background exemplifies this fact. She has the knowledge, skills and experience that are vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission should be engaged in over the next several years.

I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Hannah Springer's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 5:16:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong **SUPPORT** of Hannah Springer.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 5:27:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is THOMAS KEVIN Kekoa Dolan-Ma and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas

Honolulu

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 5:31:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christy and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christy
Lahaina

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:16:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Isis Usborne and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other

commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isis Usborne (96815)

2026 J.D. Candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law at UH Mānoa

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:22:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Thank you

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:27:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Igarta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gabrielle Igarta and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Igarta

Kapolei

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:35:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission.

Please recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

ATTN: CHAIR LORRAINE INOUE & VICE-CHAIR BRANDON ELEFANTE

**Testimony Strongly Supporting GM770:
Confirming Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management**

April 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Kekai Keahi and I am a 9th generation Lahaina resident, the president of Ka Malu ‘Ulu o Kahalawai, and a longtime advocate for pono water management. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify **in strong support of GM770, Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer’s nomination.**

Like so many in our community, our ‘ohana has toiled for generations to protect and restore our water resources. We knew that by restoring our streams, we would recharge our aquifers and increase water levels for the future. Now, with Aunty Hannah’s nomination, we can trust that the Water Commission will have a true loea with real expertise to address the water needs of not only Native Hawaiians, but anyone who has or will have business before this important agency.

Aunty Hannah has dedicated her life to our wai and waiwai. In my opinion, she has more relevant experience regarding sustainable wai practices than anyone currently serving on the Water Commission. For Aunty Hannah, Ka Pa‘akai is not simply an analytic framework or court decision. It is how she was trained to kilo. Sure, it can also be used to balance proposed development with the protection of cultural practices and resources, but it goes far beyond that. Aunty Hannah also has a reputation for working with everyone and collaborates with developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members alike.

We fight so hard to protect our wai in Maui Komohana because we are forward-thinking. We know that our actions have implications for our keiki and our mo‘opuna. We want to ensure that the varieties of kalo found only in Honokōhau Valley can be harvested in thirty years’ time by the keiki who are playing in those streambeds today. The determinations of the Water Commission directly impact that future, and we believe that Aunty Hannah is the loea to help CWRM fulfill its kuleana. We offer our full support to Aunty and urge this Committee to approve her nomination today. **Please vote YES on GM770.**

Ola i ka wai!

Kekai Keahi

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 7:50:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Keliipaakaua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I enthusiastically stand in strong support of the confirmation of makua Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). She has made numerous impactful contributions to the protection of natural and cultural resources throughout the Hawaiian archipelago and is an invaluable source of knowledge as an experienced and wise kanaka who is highly respected across the Hawaiian community. I encourage you to confirm makua Hannah Springer's appointment to CWRM.

Mahalo,

Kepo‘o (Justin) Keli‘ipa‘akaua

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 7:59:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Hannah Springer to fill the Loea seat for the Commission on Water Resource Management.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 8:01:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Yagodich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for GM770 to confirm Gubernatorial nominee, HANNAH SPRINGER, to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mahalo nui!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 8:49:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy M Sproat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge the Senate to confirm Aunty Hannah Springer's nomination for the loea seat on the Water Commission. Aunty Hannah is the best possible candidate for this position with all of the knowledge that she carries from both lived experience and multigenerational sources. She has demonstrated time and again that she is a servant leader who highly values the health of Hawai'i's resources and communities. Mahalo for your consideration and I encourage you to make the pono decision for Hawai'i and the future of our `āina and wai by confirming Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer. Mahalo nui loa.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:22:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Gourley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is [NAME], and I am from [‘ĀINA/HOMESTEAD]. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Tom Gourley

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 9:24:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Keahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Keahi, and I am from from the Villages of Leiali'i in Lahaina. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Aunty Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she's done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Aunty Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Christine Keahi

Testimony to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the
Commission on Water Resource Management

Friday April 11, 2025 at 1PM

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Kawai Warren, and I am a resident of Moku o Waimea, Kaua'i. I am writing to offer my **unwavering and enthusiastic support** for GM770, the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a member of the Kaua'i community, I have personally witnessed the respect and admiration Aunty Hannah commands. Her deep understanding of our island's resources, coupled with her commitment to Native Hawaiian values, makes her uniquely qualified to represent my community, fellow DHHL beneficiaries, and all those who care about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is not just a celebrated cultural practitioner and community leader; she is a dedicated aloha 'āina whose wisdom, cultivated over decades, will be an invaluable asset to the Water Commission. Her pivotal role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis demonstrates her ability to thoughtfully balance development with the vital protection of cultural practices and resources. Furthermore, her long-standing leadership on the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee showcases her commitment to proactive resource management. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has embodied the spirit of a *kahuwai pono*, a true guardian of water, and her profound knowledge is essential for ensuring the well-being of generations to come.

Beyond her impressive accomplishments, Aunty Hannah carries the *'ike kūpuna* of her ancestors from Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o. Her deep connection to these arid *kaha* lands provides a unique perspective on the true value of *wai*. In this era of increasing climate destabilization, where our islands face unpredictable rainfall patterns and critical

decisions regarding water sharing and protection are imminent, her ancestral wisdom will be more vital than ever.

Therefore, I respectfully and **strongly urge** this Committee to recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as clearly stated in GM770. Thank you for providing this opportunity to share my support.

Ola i ka wai!

Kawai Warren

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:01:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki Lene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am in full support of the loea seat on the water commission that represents ‘ike kupuna and Native Hawaiian water stewardship. I am in full support of the confirmation of Hannah Springer for this loea seat. Hawaiians have voiced their desire for her to represent our voices. We have already been blatantly disrespected by the governor after his questionable actions and months long hold out of a nominee. Auwe. Please hear us and confirm Hannah Springer for the CWRM Loea seat.

me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Miki Lene

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:16:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pat Fondren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support nominee Hannah Springer to the Loea seat on the Hawaii water commission

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:23:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Lum and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Paʻakai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawaiʻi and Kuaʻāina Ulu ʻAuamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Kaʻūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ʻāina, wai, and kai of Kaʻūpūlehu and Kūkiʻo. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:27:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina H Elison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mina Elison and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah is a HAMMAH and has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mina Elison

Ke'ei, Kona Hema

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:42:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I KĀKO‘O PIHA this nomination and request that Hannah Springer be confirmed to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:50:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I am from Lahaina. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Andrew Isoda

Lahaina, Mau'i

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 10:56:46 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darcel Gilbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Water is life.

We need Hannah Springer for this important position.

Please vote for GM770.

Mahalo,

Darcel Gilbert

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:02:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merleene P Kirkland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of keiki o ka ‘aina:

Hannah Kihalani Springer as the Loea Seat nominee. She is:

kupa, protectorate, kakoo of the ‘aina of her homeland.‘, ki‘a‘i.

Eō

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:18:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kazuo, and I am from [‘ĀINA/HOMESTEAD]. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a

foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Aunty Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Kazuo Flores

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:20:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dale chappell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Dale Chappell. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she's done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Dale A. Chappell

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:22:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Springer to the

Commission on Water Resource Management

Friday April 11, 2025 at 1PM

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Paul Hanohano, I have a residence in Kaneohe, Oahu and Hilo, Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loa.

She is well known for her work in the community on aina issues. Hannah Springer's knowledge of Native Hawaiian cultural practices is of great value to our State and this position under the Water Commission.

I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend to the Senate that Hannah Springer be confirmed to the Water Commission, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo,

Paul Hanohano

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:12:15 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clint Kahahane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Clint Kahahane , and I am from Wahikuli Homestead, Lahaina. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Aunty Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Aunty Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Clint Kahahane

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 1:12:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Honorable Members,

Im in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Aunty Hannah Springer's confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Aunty Hannah will serve with honor and integrity. Please vote to support her confirmation.

Ke Akua pu,

God bless all of you

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 1:16:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Tedesco, and I am from Kihei. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Aunty Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she's done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Aunty Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.
Nicole Tedesco

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 1:30:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davianna McGregor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante and members of the Water and Land Committee. I am testifying in support of the appointment of Hannah Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Ms. Springer is the loea, expert most knowledgeable about the water resources in her 'āina of Ka'ūpūlehu and the Keauhou aquifer. Beyond there, she understands the importance of wai to Kānaka 'Ōiwi cultural, subsistence and spiritual beliefs, customs and practices. She is eminently qualified to serve on CWRM. Mahalo for allowing me to testify on behalf of Hannah Springer. Aloha

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 4:08:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elexis Kalar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Elexis Kalar, and I am from Makawao. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea.

Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

Hannah Springer understands what the importance of water actually is because she's been a steward her whole life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā and all over the island.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

I urge you to confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo.**Elexis Kalar**

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:14:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Lomeli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is [NAME], and I am from [‘ĀINA/HOMESTEAD]. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Kathy Lomeli

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:05:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahina Amion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Senate Committee,

I write in strong support of Aunty Hannah Springer's appointment to the loea seat on the Commission for Water Resource Management. Aunty Hannah embodies the 'ike kupuna, kuleana, and aloha 'āina that this seat was created to uphold. She has long served our lāhui with integrity, deep cultural knowledge, and a steadfast commitment to protecting wai and 'āina for current and future generations.

Her nomination reflects the will of the people and the intent of the Water Code. I urge you to confirm her without delay.

Mahalo nui,

Mahina Amion

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:09:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
India cote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hannah for the seat!

she's one of the few that wants to do what's right

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:32:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Veno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Veno, and I am from Lahaina and Huelo. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member and homesteader in Huelo, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. Our streams are running dry. Kalo is being destroyed by pigs and deer.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she's done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina and Huelo are honored in this process.

Please remember Mauka to Makai. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Susan Veno

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:41:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kēhau of Wailuku, Maui. As someone deeply connected to Hawai‘i's natural and cultural landscapes, I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Aunty Hannah is a respected cultural practitioner and lifelong steward of Hawai‘i’s natural resources. Her lived experience and ‘ike kūpuna guide her work in ways that honor our ancestral knowledge while addressing today’s complex environmental challenges. Whether through her kuleana to ‘āina or her advocacy in public forums, she consistently shows a deep commitment to protecting water, land, and the rights of our people. Her presence on the Commission would bring not just expertise, but integrity, wisdom, and aloha.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Water and Land to ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

J. Kēhau Lucas

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:42:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Leila Dudley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kāua,

My name is Melanie Leilā Dudley and I along with my family of 5 live in Makahanaloa, Hilo Palikū on the island of Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support on behalf of our whole ‘ohana for the nomination of Auntie Hannah Kihalani Springer for the Loea seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have had the honor of learning from and working with Auntie Hannah over the past 15 years through efforts in Kekahawai‘ole in North Kona, specifically at Ka‘ūpūlehu and Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a. As a mentor, and unwavering advocate for ‘āina and wai, she has guided countless individuals—myself included—with humility, clarity, and deep aloha for our shared kuleana. Her knowledge is expansive and rooted: she brings ‘ike honua and ‘ike kūpuna, seamlessly bridging Hawaiian cultural practices, environmental stewardship, western science, and state policy.

The Loea seat calls for someone with substantial traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge of water resource management—and there is truly no one more qualified or more deserving of this role than Auntie Hannah. She has lived this kuleana for decades, through hands-on work with community, through advocacy in the halls of policy, and through consistent, values-driven leadership.

What sets Auntie Hannah apart is not just her breadth of knowledge, but her fairness, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to pono decision-making. She understands the flow of wai not just as a resource, but as life itself—interconnected with culture, justice, and the health of our people and lands.

I am heartened by Governor Green’s nomination and urge the Commission to affirm this choice. Auntie Hannah will bring not only expertise, but also deep integrity, and will ensure that decisions made reflect the best of both ancestral knowledge and contemporary understanding.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Melanie Leilā Dudley, Nick Frazier, Makahanaloa Frazier, Pi‘imauna Frazier & Leialoha Frazier

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:56:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Breanne Fong

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:23:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanna Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences, as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives, will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly concerning the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Me ke aloha,

Rosie 'Anolani Alegado

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:46:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles KH Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou:

My name is Charles Young. I reside in Kealia South Kona Hawaii Island. I am submitting testimony in strong support of Hannah Springer's appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I have known Hannah for over 30 years and continue to work with her on on various issues important to our community. She will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and strong work ethic to the Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of Hannah Springer's appointment to the Commission of Water Resource Management.

Respectively

Charles Young

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:47:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Hannah Springer. Mahalo!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:58:46 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Albright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong SUPPORT of Aunty Hannah!

I urge you to confirm her nomination of GM770.

The community needs community leaders who THINK of the community and our precious wai.

She is qualified and deserves this seat as loea, Native Hawaiian water expert.

We all need her in sustainability and protection of our wai.

Mahalo for your time.

Lana Albright

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:11:20 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John L Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, Water & Land Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Hannah Springer, nominee for a term serving on the Water Commission. I urge this committee and the State legislature to consider and confirm Hannah - an excellent choice, who will bring both depth and cultural expertise that precisely fits the criteria envisioned for the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I am biased in my opinion. Hannah and I were classmates at Punahou, graduates of the Class of '70 in a time when the pressures of post statehood western-style development weighed heavily upon our island state with sweeping plans that threatened to displace families and lifestyles - certainly felt in my "neck of the woods" on the windward coast of O'ahu. We, as part of the United States, were also in the midst of the war "support" effort in Southeast Asia - a campaign that was a cloud of uncertainty over our generation as we watched it unfold - wondering all the while (as the lyrics of songs said) "what are we fighting for?". It was a time for the dawning of movements that brought us all to question authority, challenge our states' directions, lean into asking about the impacts of a military-industrial complex and its footprint on our island resources, socio-economic status...but also a renaissance of Hawaiian interests, knowledge and practices. In our time at Punahou - I am grateful to say - we were encouraged (by some) to speak freely and embrace civic engagement as a tool for change.

My regret: As I review Hannah's stellar resume, posted on-line for all to peruse, I only wish that I would have taken more time to connect with her from high-school days forward. We are both in our 70s and have gained perspective on the challenges once faced and still before us - how to address the fair and practicable allocation of precious, limited natural resources in such a fashion so as not to preclude future planning options, protect traditional and cultural practices and, of increasing/critical importance, so that we do **not** foul the nest we live in!

My Hope: with Hannah's confirmation and engagement (Mahalo Hannah - for even considering devotion of your time and energy!) - I believe that we might just achieve what the Water Code, its implementing commission, set out to accomplish. The beginnings of the Code, the Commission, an Office of Hawaiian Affairs and so much more that came out of the 1978 Constitutional Convention are a sound foundation and stepping stones for management that someone with Hannah Springer's background can build on and build well.

I urge your favorable consideration.

John L. Reppun, lifetime community advocate

(808)277-8686

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:14:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Marie Matsuzaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

MAHALO for the Governor's decision to select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: **Hannah Kihalani Springer.**

Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision-making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Hannah, a trained planner, is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. This mindset is critical to all of in the modern era who have forgotten to live on and with the land. Hannah, a talented historian, carries with her the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:19:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Carty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HANNAH SPRINGER is the one for the job. Cultural representation has been tragically missing from the water commission. She definitely is needed. I am very concerned about the status of the water commission and voting her on is a step in the right direction.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:25:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Bond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Riley Bond, and I was raised in Lahaina, Maui. I’m writing today in strong support of the Governor’s recommendation to appoint **Hannah Springer** to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Lahaina was once known as the “Venice of the Pacific,” with fresh, life-giving waters flowing freely through Mokuhinia and Moku‘ula. Today, those streams have been diverted, dammed, and drained. On August 8th, 2023, our community was engulfed in flames. More than 100 lives were lost, and generations of trauma were created in a single afternoon.

I attended the recent CWRM meeting held at Lahainaluna High School. During the staff presentation, it was stated that the systems used to collect water data are largely Western—focused on flow rates, yield, and numerical thresholds. These models do not account for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, or how water is intricately tied to cultural, spiritual, and generational survival.

The presenters mentioned that they would be “consulting” with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to gather input. But during the Q&A portion of the meeting, I submitted a handwritten question asking how these conversations would be *quantified*. How do you measure the depth of generational ‘ike, the value of kapu, or the loss of a lo‘i that no longer flows?

The question was read aloud to a room full of community members and it was danced around. The answer was vague: “We’ll gather data.” But that isn’t enough. It’s not even close. A simple consultation process, tacked onto a Western framework, does not honor the depth or importance of traditional water relationships. That moment underscored for me just how critical it is to have decision-makers on the Commission who already live and breathe these practices.

That’s why the LEOA seat exists. And that’s why it’s time to not only nominate but fully support, appoint, and uplift, **Hannah Springer**.

Water determines whether our communities survive. Whether our children can remain on ‘āina. Whether our kupuna’s knowledge is passed down or erased. Appointing Hannah Springer to the CWRM isn’t just a good decision—it’s the necessary one.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Riley Bond
Lahaina, Maui

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:25:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Leialoha Doane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Water & Land Committee,

I strongly support GM770, which would confirm the appointment of Hannah Kihalani Springer as a commissioner to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), for the seat set aside for an individual who possesses “substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage.”

Ola i ka Wai (Water is Life, Life because of Water).

Since time immemorial, wai has been considered to be part of Hawai‘i’s public trust, administered for the common good. Appropriate management practices ensure sufficient water for food production, drinking water, healthy estuaries, groundwater recharge, important traditional and customary practices, as well as domestic water use. Consistent with the traditions of Hawai‘i, the State recognizes fresh water as a public trust resource that must be protected for present and future generations.

CWRM decisions have direct, long-term impacts on our community and it is critical that CWRM members possess a demonstrated and culturally-grounded respect for the public trust in our water resources. This vast and significant kuleana requires leadership that not only has the subject matter and administrative capacity, but that is also committed to fulfilling CWRM’s fiduciary obligations to Native Hawaiians and the general public, including future generations yet to come.

Ms. Springer clearly possesses a deep and culturally-grounded understanding of the need to uphold the public trust in our water resources, and her confirmation would benefit Native Hawaiians and the larger community. Ms. Springer is a long term cultural practitioner rooted in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors from Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūk‘io. She has previously served as a trustee at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, played a key leadership role in the establishment of the Ka Pa‘akai analysis used by the state and petitioners to mitigate impacts to cultural practices, and has and continues to serve on numerous boards and committees dedicated to aloha ‘āina and stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Because she is a well known Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner and leader, what may not be obvious to those that have not had the pleasure of working with her, is that she is also known for her ability to lead initiatives and find solutions that balance interests and

integrate Native Hawaiian and Western perspectives. This is apparent in her work on the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee, the Kūki‘o Development and Home Owners Association, the Hualālai Development Company, her various roles with Hawai‘i County, etc. Finally, as a kanaka ‘ōiwi grounded in the ‘ike of her kūpuna who understood how to thrive in areas with highly variable rainfall conditions, she has much mana‘o to offer all of us as we continue to see climate and rainfall impact the freshwater resources across Ka Pae ‘Āina o Hawai‘i.

Hannah Springer is exceptionally qualified to serve in this very important role and I hope you will support her nomination moving forward. We need the brightest minds with a willingness to work with other experts to help us navigate the drier days in the future.

Na‘u,

Jocelyn Leialoha Doane

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:30:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sadie Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Sadie, and I am from Maui. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member of Maui, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she's done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure on Maui.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Sadie Green

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:32:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Noelle Lindenmann and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:46:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Misajon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my written testimony in favor of Hannah Springer's confirmation for a seat on the Water Commission. We need more Native Hawaiians with Hannah Springer's commitment to water stewardship.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly, 808-388-0696.

Mahalo, Debbie Misajon

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:05:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominique Cordy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 10, 2025**From:** Dominique Leu Cordy**To:** Lorraine R. Inouye Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land**Re: Strong Support for the Gubernatorial Nominee, Hannah Kihalani Springer for confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM),**

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

To introduce myself, I live in Kalihiwai on Kaua‘i island, I’ve interfaced with CWRM as a (former) member of the Wai‘oli Valley Taro Hui, we were farming in Wai‘oli when the 2018 floods blew out our mānowai and halted kalo production in Wai‘oli and Hanalei. We worked closely with CWRM on compliance and a water lease. I also am a founding member of the Kali‘uokapa‘akai Collective, the Deputy Director of Huliauapa‘a, a principal and Nohopapa Hawai‘i and a project manager for flood resilience projects along Kalihiwai Stream for the Hanalei Initiative. With all these community, professional and ‘ohana hats on I strongly support the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to CWRM.

The CWRM plays a vital role in overseeing and protecting Hawai‘i’s water resources, which are essential to the life economy and culture of our island communities. The loea seat is critical, ensuring that at least one Commissioner has,

“substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101,” ...namely traditional and customary practices; HRS § 174C-7(b).

Importantly, the loea seat provides technical expertise to the Commission and is an important bridge for community outreach and trust-building efforts. In the initial discussions around amending the Water Code to add the Loea seat, the House Committee on Judiciary found that a Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat “...would be beneficial to include on the Commission to better perform its duties.” H. Stand. Comm. Rep. No. 1503, in 2003 House Journal, at 1653. Since the CWRM makes decisions that could impact native Hawaiian water rights, it is integral that

whoever is selected for this position has sufficient expertise in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage and is also trusted by the Hawaiian community.

Hannah Kihalani Springer, a kama‘āina of Ka‘ūpūlehu, Kona ‘Ākau, is that person. She is qualified to serve, is highly respected in the community, a deeply respected cultural practitioner and historian. Hannah Kihalani Springer has lineal ties to Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, where her ‘ohana has lived for generations, not only surviving but thriving in a space famously referred to as “ke kahawai‘ole.” In a place named for its scarcity of surface water, Hannah Kihalani Springer stands as a living testament of the generational knowledge essential to thriving in the highly variable rainfall conditions of this ahupua‘a. As a lifelong advocate for elevating and integrating ‘ike Hawai‘i and community voices into decisions directly affecting our ‘āina and kai, she brings a plethora of much-needed experience to the Commission.

Hannah Kihalani Springer is one of the best possible candidates to serve in the CWRM’s loea seat. In an unprecedented era of climate destabilization and water scarcity, Aunty Hannah will bring a wealth of community leadership, experience in court, commission and legal process, along with creative problem-solving and Hawaiian ‘ike to the CWRM.

I respectfully and strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate confirm Hannah Kihalani Springer as a CWRM commissioner, as reflected in GM770. We are truly lucky she is willing to spend her time on a CWRM seat, we will all benefit from her confirmation.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Dominique Leu Cordy

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:05:51 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Nahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hannah Springer for the position and I believe she is not for profit but for actual care of these waters in the healthiest way to ensure that it will be there for future generations, mahalo nui!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:06:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dennis O'Shea and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I respectfully, but strongly, urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo,

Dennis O'Shea

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:14:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sanna Ka'uhane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

My name is Sanna Ka'uhane and I'm writing this testimony in strong support of the appointment of Hannah Springer to the Loea seat for the water commission. My family and I live in Honokōhau Valley in West Maui and our community here is directly affected by the varying dailly stream flows. Our Maui Komohana community has also been greatly affected by this vacancy and the need to protect our precious resources during this time of rebuild grows greater with every day.

Our family believes that Aunty Hannah is an extremely qualified candidate for this seat. Her dedication to stewardship is exemplary and more people with the same level of committment and connection should fill these positions that deal with the fate of our resources. We have no doubt that she will fulfill her duties. You could even say she is an expert choice for the Loea seat ;)

The complete lack of consideration that has been given to this appointment has been an outrage to all of Hawai'i and a deep insult to our Maui Komohana Community. Lahaina families shouldn't be burdened with the threat of uncertainty, of something so critical as the Loea seat as they work to rebuild their home. I stongly urge the Senate Committee on Water and Land to ADVISE and CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo nui for your time!

Sanna Ka'uhane

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:25:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Ann Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With more than 40 years of experience, Hannah Springer is uniquely qualified and have repeatedly shown her knowledge and dedication to Hawaii and management of our precious wai. She needs to be on this commission.

Mahalo,

Deborah Harada

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:28:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nalani Abellanida and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nalani A. From Lahaina

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:31:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Senate Committee on Water & Land,

Mahalo for confirming Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer as the Loea for the State's Commission on Water Resource Management. Makua Kihalani is an esteemed community leader with a lifelong dedication to safeguarding the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i.

Aloha 'Āina,

Momi Wheeler

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:34:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua'ala Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mai ke ko‘a mokumoku o Uluweuweu a hiki loa aku i nā ko‘a mokumoku o Kawahaokamanō, aloha nui kākou.

I submit this testimony of SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission of Water Resource Management (CWRM). I have the privilege of knowing the nominee in both my professional and personal capacity for nearly two decades. During that time, she has clearly demonstrated in-depth technical knowledge and expertise matched only by her significant gifts of seamlessly weaving together ancestral knowledge and practices together with present day strategies of resource care to inform our shared futures. I have full confidence that depth and breadth of experience she brings will make significant contributions to fulfill the kuleana of the CWRM loea seat.

I strongly urge the Senate Committee on Water and Land to advise and consent to the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer, as reflected in GM770.

Na‘u me ke ha‘aha‘a,

Pua‘ala Pascua

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:39:16 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheylah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Cheylah-Maire Uyeda, and I am from Kahana, Lahaina, Maui. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she's done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the 'āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and her decades of aloha 'āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Cheylah-Marie Uyeda

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:52:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JENNIFER CLAUDIO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jennifer Claudio. I am a constituent from the island of Maui.

I am submitting written testimony in support of Bill GM770 and Aunty Hannah Springer. We are in dire need of protecting our water and of having a knowledgeable water protector to do just that. As a foster mom, I think of my keikis future and all the futures of our people and living organisms. We must do our part to sustain life and veer away from a profit only mentality. Health is wealth, If the health of our Aina deteriorates, we will all be impacted. Aunty Hannah is experienced and competent for this position so my hope is that our testimonies will be heard and she be chosen for the Loea Seat of the Water Commission.

Mahalo Nui,

Jennifer

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:54:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Belcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hannah Springer for the Commission on Water Resource Management. Her experience and manao make her an excellent candidate for this position that will bring about a positive change to Hawaii's water issues.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:59:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Aipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This role is vital to properly managing our water resources. HANNAH SPRINGER is in a position to run this seat effectively and efficiently, making sure that our islands resources are managed properly for years to come. Water is life, without it, we all lose.

April 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)
Hawaii State Capital
Conference Room 229
415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of GM770

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Garth Yamanaka, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of GM770, the nomination of Aunty Hannah Springer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I come before you as a lifelong resident of Hawai‘i Island, a small business owner, land manager, member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee (KMLAC), current member of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, and a past president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai‘i. In each of these roles, I’ve seen firsthand how essential thoughtful and balanced stewardship is to our land and water resources.

Aunty Hannah has been one of our community’s most respected and enduring voices for stewardship. For over three decades, she has guided the protection of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o in North Kona through her leadership as a founding member of KMLAC. Her deep cultural knowledge, unwavering integrity, and skill at building collaborative solutions have brought together community members, lineal descendants, landowners, and developers with a shared understanding of the importance of environmental and cultural integrity.

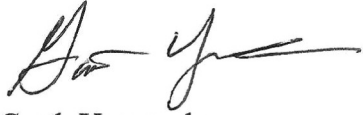
Her service to Hawai‘i extends well beyond West Hawai‘i. She has served as President of the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i, as a board member of Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, a former trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and as a member of the Kona Hawaiian Civic Club, among many others. Across these spaces, Aunty Hannah brings heart, humility, and a strong voice for future generations.

On a personal note, I have always admired Aunty Hannah’s ability to listen deeply, speak thoughtfully, and act courageously. She is grounded in ancestral wisdom while also being forward-looking—an invaluable trait for navigating today’s complex water challenges.

I have the utmost confidence in Aunty Hannah’s ability to serve our communities with vision and responsibility on the Commission. She will be a tremendous asset to the future of our water resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garth Yamanaka', with a stylized, flowing script.

Garth Yamanaka

**Testimony to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**In support of GM770 Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the
Commission on Water Resource Management
Friday April 11, 2025, at 1PM
Conference Room 229**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Hōkū Chun and I am from Kapolei. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her 'āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination**, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!
Hōkū Chun

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:16:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:21:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Hannah Springer's confirmation for the Loea role on the water commission. We need someone who knows how to steward our water systems with traditional knowledge and time tested experiences. Mahalo

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:28:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaleiheana Stormcrow,

Kapu'euhi

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:28:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Gabriel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Tanya Gabriel, and I am a mental health counselor in Kihei. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member of Maui, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**Ola i ka wai.****Tanya Noelle Gabriel, LMHC NCC**

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 11:35:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Inouye, Vice Chair Senator Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land.

I strongly support the nomination of Hannah Springer to serve as the Water Commission's Native Hawaiian water management expert as put forth in GM 770.

I worked at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for over 25 years and was there while Ms. Springer was a trustee. She was a fine, admirable trustee, and I'm sure she will be an asset to the Commission. I understand that she has over 40 years of experience in community service dedicated to the stewardship of water, land and ocean of areas such as Kaupulehu and Kukio.

Please support the nomination of Hannah Springer.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

Testimony to
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

In support of
GM770 nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource
Management

Friday April 11, 2025
1:00 PM
Conf. Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Kristel Whippy

E: kris25@hawaii.edu

96816, Palolo Valley

2025 LLM Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

Testimony of Paele Kiakona

Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land

In Support of Gubernatorial Nominee No. 770

RELATING TO CONFIRMATION OF HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER TO THE COMMISSION
ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Paele Kiakona, and I offer my full support for GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the designated loea on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

As a lifelong kalo farmer, fisherman, and someone deeply rooted in our 'āina and community of Lahaina, I understand firsthand the vital importance of wai — not just as a resource, but as a relative. I come from a tradition where water is not simply used; it is honored. It is the heartbeat of our lo'i, the breath of our kai, and the connector between generations.

In my lifetime, and especially in the wake of the devastating August 8th fires, I have seen how fragile our systems are when leadership is disconnected from the land and people. We cannot afford to have water policy shaped in isolation from our cultural practices and ancestral knowledge. The survival of our people, our food systems, and our future depends on putting the right leaders in place those who understand that wai is more than utility; it is identity, it is life.

Aunty Hannah brings exactly that kind of leadership. Her decades of experience in mālama 'āina, her contributions to policies that recognize Native Hawaiian rights, and her unwavering commitment to community stewardship make her the embodiment of what this seat requires. She is not just an expert she is a practitioner of kuleana, one whose decisions are guided by deep 'ike and lived experience.

The appointment of a true loea like Aunty Hannah is essential to ensure that our approach to water is grounded in justice, balance, and aloha 'āina. We cannot rebuild or perpetuate Hawaiian culture without ensuring that those who understand its roots are empowered to lead. Aunty Hannah represents the kind of leadership that honors our past and protects our future.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I urge this committee to confirm her nomination and stand with our communities in affirming the value of 'ike kupuna, pono stewardship, and water as life.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Paele Kiakona

Lahaina Strong

Fisherman, Kalo Farmer, Community Advocate

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:19:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

O Kilihea Inaba ko‘u inoa, no Kaloko, Kona, Hawai‘i mai au. This testimony is in strong support of GM770 and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert. She is well suited to represent my community and other DHHL beneficiaries, and can also make informed and balanced decisions about the future of our precious water.

Aunty Hannah is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa‘akai analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. For over 40 years, Aunty Hannah has been doing the work of a kahuwai pono, and knows better than anyone how to protect and preserve wai for the benefit of future generations.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but to truly thrive in these arid kaha lands. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her ‘āina, particularly with respect to the precious nature of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I respectfully but strongly urge that this Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Kilihea Inaba

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:23:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leo Nahe Smith and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Na,

Leo Nahe Smith

Pearl City, 96782

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:33:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa tomlinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support appointing Hannah Springer. Hawai'i needs her expertise and Aloha 'Āina.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:33:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, it is my teestimony that Hawai'i waters should be carded for and mahaneged for the peopl and not for profit, and therefore I support this Bill in nomination of Hannah Springer.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:49:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Jelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a constituent in Kihei, Maui. Please finalize Hannah Springer to the water commission. She is truly experienced and well-practiced in this field and cares so much about the wai and land and the people here. Thank you for your consideration.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:52:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan McCall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born & raised Maui resident concerned about how the use of water is used on maui, I support this nomination of Ms. Springer. She has the best interest in doing what is right for Maui.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 12:55:10 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

i storngly support the nomination of Hannah Springer to the Water Commission.

i've worked with Hannah for almost 4 decades on projects and campaigns, mutually striving to protect Hawai'i nei. her wisdom, courage and commitment to issues that protect the natural and culutral resources of our islands couldn't be clearer. Beyond our interactions and colloboration is a lifetime of her community service.

We need Hannah Springer's voice more now than ever. Please support her appointment to the Water Commission without hesistation or delay.

mahalo and best,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 1:00:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Bremer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leah Bremer, and I am writing in **strong support** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's *loea*, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as outlined in GM770. I currently serve as Associate Director of the Institute for Sustainability and Resilience at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am also affiliated with the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) and the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC).

My connection to Auntie Hannah began through the NSF-funded 'Ike Wai project, where Kona was one of our primary research sites. Her guidance and support were instrumental to our efforts, particularly in understanding and honoring the biocultural significance of groundwater-dependent ecosystems. I can think of no one more deeply rooted in a holistic and place-based understanding of water in Hawai'i. Her nomination is a source of great inspiration and hope.

Auntie Hannah is a highly respected cultural practitioner, committed to aloha 'āina, and a longtime community leader. Her contributions span decades, including service as an OHA Trustee, co-creation of the Ka Pa'akai analysis to ensure cultural practices are considered in land use decisions, and leadership roles on boards such as the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo. She continues to serve as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee—an exemplary model of collaboration among community members, cultural practitioners, landowners, and developers in the stewardship of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

Her lived experience, ability to weave Native Hawaiian and Western knowledge systems, and longstanding dedication to community-driven, culturally grounded solutions make her uniquely qualified to serve on the Commission. These qualities are essential as the Commission undertakes complex and consequential decisions about the future of Hawai'i's water resources.

In addition, as a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, Auntie Hannah embodies the 'ike kūpuna passed down through generations who thrived in regions with variable and often limited rainfall. Her deep connection to her ancestral lands, and her understanding of the profound value of *wai*, is especially critical as we confront the challenges of climate change and increasing water scarcity.

For these reasons, I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee to **recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT** to the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo nui,
Leah Bremer

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 1:03:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Pap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ruby Pap and I live in Lihue on the Island of Kaua‘i. and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor’s decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha ‘āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission’s work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the “Ka Pa‘akai” analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai‘i and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the ‘āina, wai, and kai of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, grounded in the ‘ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua‘a. The mindset imbued in the mo‘olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands’ rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah’s nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Ruby Pap

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:01:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Richard Ho, and my kupuna were raised in both Kaupō & Lāhainā. I am writing in **strong support of GM770** and the confirmation of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated **loea**, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a community member in Lahaina, I cannot express enough how critical this appointment is. Our community has faced deep and ongoing struggles when it comes to wai — from diverted streams and degraded ecosystems, to drought conditions that have worsened year after year, to the painful aftermath of the fires where clean water access became a daily concern. And still, we are expected to rebuild in the middle of a water crisis.

The confirmation of someone like Auntie Hannah to the Water Commission gives us hope. She understands what it means to mālama wai because she’s done it her entire life — not from an office, but from the ground, from the ‘āina, alongside community. Her work as an OHA Trustee, her role in shaping the Ka Pa‘akai analysis, and her decades of aloha ‘āina leadership — including in the drylands of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o — prove that she not only brings expertise, but lived experience from places that face similar water challenges to what we endure in Lāhainā.

We need a loea who sees water as more than a resource — as a relative, as a foundation for life, culture, and identity. We need leadership that reflects the knowledge of our kūpuna, especially as climate change continues to destabilize rainfall patterns and increase pressure on our already limited water systems.

Appointing Auntie Hannah to this seat is a step toward pono decision-making that reflects the real needs of communities like mine — not just the interests of development or short-term gain. I urge you to **confirm her nomination, as reflected in GM770**, and ensure that the voices of Kānaka and communities like Lahaina are honored in this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai.

Richard Ho

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:11:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonnetta Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee. She is an excellent lo'ea and will be a benefit to the Water Resource Management Commission and to the community.

Mahalo!

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:19:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770. When I was the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I was able to work with Aunty Hannah, and she was very knowledgeable, friendly and effective.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission.

Aunty Hannah has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I strongly suggest that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to support Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman

Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:38:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770, based on her expertise and experience with traditional water management. I believe she will be a great choice for all of us. Mahalo.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:46:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JAIME HOPKINS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jaime Hopkins and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jaime Hopkins,

Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:47:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pumehana Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pumehana Holmes and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am a Kānaka Maoli student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa studying Cultural Studies of Asia/the Pacific in the English department. Through my education, I have learned the importance of Indigenous bodies and voices facilitating governmental positions in making decisions about Indigenous land. I have also learned that beyond Kānaka Maoli identity, knowing and understanding the history of Hawai'i is integral to making informed decisions regarding the land.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pumehana Holmes,

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:48:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timmy Tran	Testifying for Land and Water Commission	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Timmy and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I have been taking college courses at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa about indigenous topics such as resurgence, aesthetics, and Native Hawaiian literature. Through the education that I have received, I am full support of Aunty Hannah.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Timmy Tran,

Honolulu

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:53:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Mari Hutchins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee,

My name is Rene Mari Hutchins and I am testifying in SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770. This testimony of support is being presented as a reflection of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the surrounding University of Hawai'i System, and its status as a Native Hawaiian place of learning.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo nui for your time, consideration, and integrity.

Sincerely,

Rene Mari Hutchins

Kāne‘ohe + Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu

LATE

RE: GM 770

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Jacie Miyashiro, and I am testifying in support of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Hannah Kihalani Springer has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decision making that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

I am currently taking a class related to Indigenous sovereignty and climate change. Though I was initially intimidated by this class taking on such significant topics, I have since learned that living harmoniously with our environment starts with observing the world around you. Indigenous populations such as the Kānaka Maoli have spent generations observing their 'āina in order to engage with it in a way that benefits everyone. Springer has spent decades cultivating this cultural knowledge, which makes her an ideal leader to handle critical water management issues in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this nomination, and I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Respectfully,

Jacie Miyashiro

'Aiea, Hawai'i

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 3:58:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Guion and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Aunty Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Guion, Makakilo, O'ahu, Hawai'i

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 4:12:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tamara Luthy and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Auntie Hannah has committed her life to protecting water resources to perpetuate Kānaka Maoli traditional and customary practices. She is a celebrated, highly accomplished, and dedicated community leader, whose wisdom and experience will be an invaluable addition to the Water Commission. She has over 40 years of experience doing this kind of work, including her service as an OHA Trustee, her role in creating the Ka Pa'akai analysis, her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years. Auntie Hannah has the cultural knowledge necessary to handle critical water management issues, in a time of unprecedented demand for and increasing scarcity of our wai.

I respectfully, but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Auntie Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamara Luthy, PhD

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 4:35:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacquelyn Wu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 4:41:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kialoa Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am waiting in support of Hannah Kihalani Springer to fill the role of Loea on the Commission on Water Resource Management. Hannah Springer, or more widely known as Aunty Hannah, carries with her years of experience on as a Loea. The term Loea loosely translates to English as expert, Loea represent much more than any certificate could prove. The knowledge of a Loea is gained by honing one's skill to become more than an avid user, more than a practitioner, but a true artisan. A Loea should have the ability to build a community up so that everyone has the baseline knowledge and skills needed to perpetuate a resource, a practice, and a culture. There is no better fit than Aunty Hannah. She knows the resources of Hawaii, how to best manage them, and she inspires the Hawaii community to build themselves up to become stewards of this 'āina. She is beyond qualified, and is she is revered in our communities. While this process took longer than what I think was necessary, I implore you to make the right decision by confirming Hannah Kihalani Springer for the Loea position for the Commission of Water Resource Management.

Mahalo nui,

Kialoa Mossman

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:02:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Plowman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:23:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Pence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hannah Springer, support GM770

LATE

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

The Governor's decision to uphold his obligation to the laws of our state is long overdue, and I am thankful that, after more than a year of delay, he has honored the community's voice regarding appointment of a true loea to the Water Commission. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 5:55:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee of Water and Land,

I strongly support the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:43:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keili McEvilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Auntie Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:54:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Sincerely,
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:55:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

pass Hannah Kiheleni Springer to serve as the Water Commissions Iowa, or Native Hawaiian water management expert please.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 7:03:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Ancheta Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

Aunty Hannah Kihalani Springer has the depth of knowledge and experience needed and also the connection to the place and the community. I look forward to seeing how her presence will contribute to the collective Water Commission's decision-making and leadership.

I respectfully but strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:22:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hannah Springer is the qualfied choice to protect precious water.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:23:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:34:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support GM770

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:33:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiko Yamashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770. I am a resident of Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu.

How exciting to have a nominee with incredible expertise and community trust! I know she will contribute so much insight and leadership to this important decisionmaking body. I feel grateful that a voice like Aunty Hannah will help us to take ethical actions regarding our precious water resources, and steward them for all of us and generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:03:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT GM770!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:05:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heona Ayau-Odom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

I am grateful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles. The Water Code reserves one seat on the seven-member commission for an expert in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices related to water management. It is not a position that can be compromised and treated like any other commissioner position. Confirming her nomination will help to heal the damage inflicted by the Green Administration.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina warrior, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other proposed actions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kuki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive in these arid "kaha lands." The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her ahupua'a, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate

destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

I urge you to quickly confirm her nomination because sadly a whole year has been wasted on games the Green Administration tried to play with the nomination process. We cannot afford any further delay. Accordingly, I strongly urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to GM770, nominating Aunty Hannah as the Water Commission's long-awaited loea.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 5:46:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
benjamin garfinkle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this wonderful woman to this position

Mahalo

Testimony in Support of GM770 – Hannah Kihalani Springer for Water Commission Loea Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination to serve as a Loea on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I've had the opportunity to get to know Hannah through community spaces and gatherings over the years. She brings not only deep 'ike and experience but also a genuine care for the land and the people. Her voice is steady, thoughtful, and rooted in the place she calls home. She understands how water connects to our daily lives, our health, and our culture.

I believe Hannah will bring both wisdom and heart to the Commission's work, and I fully support her appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share this testimony.

With Aloha,

Gabriella K. Mata-Wong

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 8:32:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Broder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Water and Land Committee Chairman and Committee Members, I am in very strong support of the Hannah Springer for member of the Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management. I worked with her when she was a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other things have always been impressed with her knowledge of Hawaiian culture and tradition, respect for other people, love of the aina and natural resources of Hawaii, and commitment to justice and fairness. She is the best.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:24:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Frohlich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Hannah Kihalani Springer's nomination as the Water Commission's loa, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a conservationist in Hawai'i, I am grateful the Governor selected Aunty Hannah, a highly respected cultural practitioner and community leader, from the list provided by the nominating committee. Her experience, including her work with the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee and "Ka Pa'akai" analysis, demonstrates her ability to integrate Native Hawaiian and Western perspectives to address complex water management challenges.

Aunty Hannah's deep connection to her ancestral lands and knowledge of sustainable water stewardship will be invaluable as Hawai'i faces the impacts of climate change and increasing demands on our water resources.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend that the Senate **advise and consent** to her nomination. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:28:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penny Kaae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

In Support of GM770 – Nominating Hannah Kihalani Springer to the

Commission on Water Resource Management

Friday, April 11, 2025, at 1:00 PM

Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

My name is Penny Kaae, and I am a Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiary and farmer on the Pu‘ukapu pastoral lots in Waimea. I am writing in strong support of GM770 and the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission’s designated loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert.

As a homesteader and producer, having a Native Hawaiian representative on the Commission on Water Resource Management is incredibly important to me. Our community understands firsthand the value of wai as a life-giving resource and the critical need for decision-makers who are grounded in both ‘ike kūpuna and the lived experience of ‘āina-based communities.

Aunty Hannah embodies both. She is a deeply respected cultural practitioner, lifelong aloha ‘āina, and tireless advocate for our land and water resources. Her decades of service—as a former OHA Trustee, a leader in the development of the Ka Pa‘akai framework, and a founding member of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee—show that she brings not only expertise but also balance and deep commitment to stewardship.

Aunty Hannah is also a lineal descendant of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, raised in a tradition that understands how to live and thrive in arid environments. Her perspective is exactly what is needed as we face urgent questions about the future of water in Hawai‘i—questions that demand not only technical knowledge, but the cultural integrity and long-term vision of a kahuwai pono.

She understands what wai means to us—not only as a natural resource, but as a source of life, culture, and continuity for our homesteading and farming families. I know she will uplift and protect these values at the decision-making table.

I respectfully urge the Committee to advise and consent to her nomination, as reflected in GM770.

Ola i ka wai!

Penny Kaae

Pu‘ukapu Pastoral Homestead Beneficiary

LATE

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:35:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Hannah Kihalani Springer to serve as the Water Commission's loea, or Native Hawaiian water management expert, as reflected in GM770.

I am thankful for the Governor's decision to finally follow the law, and select a nominee from the list of names given to him by the Water Commission nominating committee last February. In doing so, he has chosen one of the best possible candidates to serve on the Commission, in one of its most important roles: Hannah Kihalani Springer.

Aunty Hannah Springer is a celebrated and highly accomplished cultural practitioner, community leader, and dedicated aloha 'āina, whose wisdom and experience will be invaluable to the Water Commission's work. Her background includes her service as an OHA Trustee; her role in creating the "Ka Pa'akai" analysis used to balance development and other decisions with the protection of cultural practices and resources; her community service on various nonprofit boards including the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; and her continued work as a founding and leading member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee - a celebrated model of collaboration between developers, private landowners, lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and community members all dedicated to the stewardship of the 'āina, wai, and kai of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. These experiences as well as her demonstrated ability to find creative, collaborative, and culturally-grounded solutions integrating Western and Native Hawaiian perspectives will be vital to the careful, balanced, and nuanced discussions and decisionmaking that the Water Commission will be engaged in over the next several years.

Moreover, Aunty Hannah is a lineal descendant of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, grounded in the 'ike kūpuna of her ancestors who understood how to not just survive, but thrive notwithstanding the highly variable rainfall conditions of these ahupua'a. The mindset imbued in the mo'olelo and cultural practices of her kulāiwi, particularly with respect to the preciousness of wai, will be more important than ever before, as climate destabilization continues to impact our islands' rainfall patterns and as important decisions must soon be made regarding the sharing and protection of this increasingly limited resource.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge that the Committee recommend that the Senate ADVISE AND CONSENT to Aunty Hannah's nomination, as reflected in GM770.

